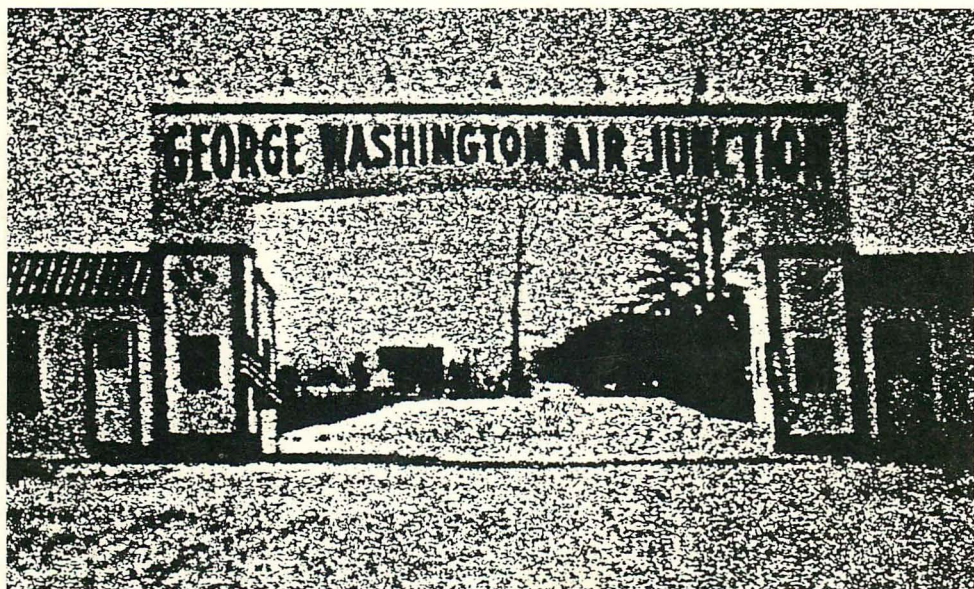


**Yearbook:
The Historical Society
of
Fairfax County, Virginia
Volume 22
1989-1990**



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Published by

The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.
P.O. Box 415, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Front Cover: Entrance arch, George Washington Air Junction. Photograph reprinted from the *Alexandria Gazette*, "Flashback" March 26, 1977, Section B, page 1.

Back Cover: Mixed-breed (Suffolk/Cheviot/Corriedale) sheep at Frying Pan Farm Park two months after their mid-April shearing. Photo by Carol Drake Friedman.

Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in
HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and *AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE*

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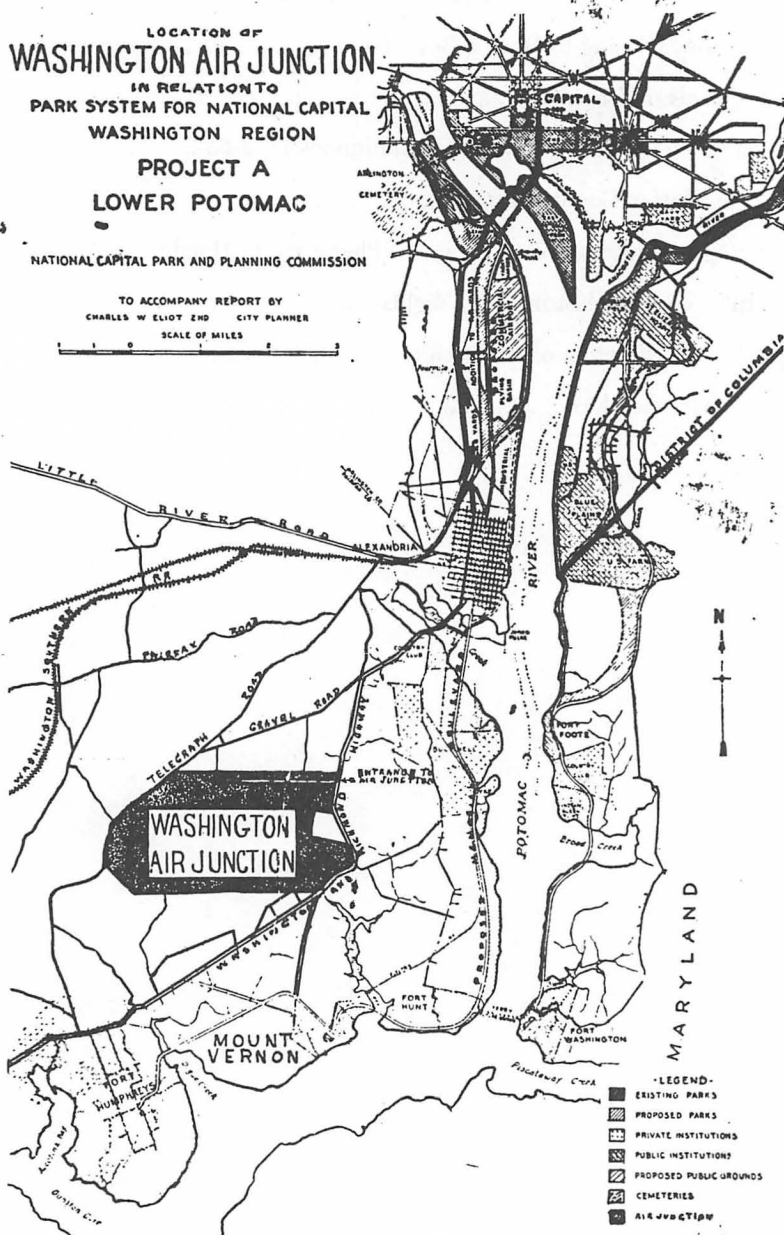
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Promotional postcard for the George Washington Air Junction. Courtesy Edith Sprouse.

Hybla Valley's Going to Have a Boy's Band!

Henry Woodhouse and the George Washington Air Junction

by

Eric Zimmerman*

(with Historical Society editorial staff)

**Mr. Zimmerman is a student at Langley High School. This article is a revised, expanded version of the first-place winner in the 1988 Historical Essay Contest.*

On December 10, 1928, Congressman Roy O. Woodruff of Michigan announced on the floor of the House of Representatives a plan by Mr. Henry Woodhouse of New York, president of the Aerial League of America, to establish an air junction in a valley south of Washington, D.C.

...In a letter transmitted to-day to the Board of District Commissioners of the District of Columbia, officials of the Aerial League of America and associated organizations announced the acquisition of over 2,000 acres of George Washington and other historic estates for establishing the world's greatest air junction and scientific center at the Capital's gates, to be known as the Washington Air Junction, which is ideally located and ready for immediate use...It is inspiring to know that Washington's lands are to be used to aid in carrying out the substance of his vision and to solve the problem of giving an airport to the city which he founded and which bears his name!¹

The George Washington Air Junction in Fairfax County, Virginia, was to be the largest airport in the nation; the runway was to have been the longest yet in the world – 7500 feet. In addition, this airfield with facilities for lighter-than-air craft was to be the American terminus for trans-Atlantic dirigible service, as at the time Zeppelins were seen by many to hold the future of aviation.

The land on which the Air Junction was to be built was first patented by Matthew Thompson in 1677; in 1757 it was regranted to George Mason. Some of this land, about 400 acres, was later acquired by George Washington.²

Henry Woodhouse seemed to think that the establishment of the Air Junction, as well as its dedication to George Washington, on this site, was an appropriate idea. George Washington, he determined, was the first head of state to express a belief that aviation could become useful.³ Washington also witnessed the first manned balloon flight in the United States in Philadelphia, on January 9, 1793.⁴ Thus, Woodhouse declared that the Air Junction would also contain a national shrine dedicated to housing old memorabilia relating to George Washington and other United States presidents, and documents, some dating back to the beginnings of this nation.⁵ Another function of the Air Junction was to have been a scientific center. The following is a quote from the letter by Henry Woodhouse to the Board of District Commissioners of the District of Columbia, printed in the *Congressional Record*, December 10, 1928:

It is also planned to have a section of the air junction for testing and demonstrating all sorts of devices and inventions tending to improve aircraft and promote safety and economy in flying. Manufacturers and inventors have suggested that if such tests and demonstrations are made on Saturday afternoon, their experts will be able to attend them every week, whereas on other days it would not be convenient. Therefore it has been decided to hold such tests on Saturdays, on which occasions the International Science Forum will hold conferences at which experts will discuss the vital problems that must be solved to make air travel safe and economic.⁶

The Air Junction was to have solved a serious problem for the military, as Woodhouse maintained that Bolling Field was flooded or foggy from 50 to 100 days per year, and that the Air Junction tract would not be.⁷ Bolling Field was also alleged to be too small, without runways of sufficient length to land large cargo planes. Woodhouse planned to let the military use the Air Junction at no cost.⁸ Much of the Air Junction tract was to be left in its native state. Historic groves and forests on the property were to be preserved and opened to the public rather than cut down. Studies of the land had revealed extensive wildlife which did not appear to be disturbed when aircraft flew overhead, making the Air Junction an ideal animal sanctuary if hunting were forbidden.

To acquaint the public with his plans, a postcard announcing the inauguration of the George Washington Air Junction was printed up, probably by Woodhouse, showing a map of the Air Junction on one side, an oval inset of the Stuart portrait of George Washington on the other, with an invitation to attend the inauguration at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 2, 1929. The invitation states, in part:

You and Your Family and Friends are Invited

To participate in the instructive and thrilling AIR-FOX-CHASES, to be held every Saturday and holiday on the historic grounds of the Air Junction where George Washington, George Mason, the Fairfaxes and

their distinguished associates hunted and caught the fox, as recorded in George Washington's Diaries. Balloons take the place of the fox, and one learns fundamentals of air navigation while enjoying a healthy sport...⁹

Directions to the Air Junction were also printed up, giving telephone numbers to call for further information. A motor-coach service was to operate between the Union Bus Terminal at 9th and Pennsylvania Avenue, the Raleigh Hotel at 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, the Willard Hotel at 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue, and the George Mason Hotel in Alexandria. The coach was then to take the passengers on a tour by a specially trained conductor who was to explain the points of historic interest and the location of the sites for the Airport, the Balloon Park, the Airship Station and other attractions. Additional busses operating between Washington, Alexandria, Fort Humphrey (now Fort Belvoir), Richmond, and Fredericksburg were to make regular stops at the Air Junction entrance.¹⁰

On January 1, 1930, behind pages of New Year's messages, the *Alexandria Gazette* featured a two-page article titled "Nations' Greatest Air Center is Located Near Alexandria."¹¹ The article detailed an elaborate groundbreaking ceremony for the George Washington Air Junction. There, the International Society of Soroptimists heard an address on aviation. In the article, the women were pictured standing upon the "historically preserved" grandstand where President Herbert Hoover was supposedly inaugurated, which was erected at the site of the Air Junction but has since vanished without a trace. In addition, several surveyor's pegs, which had supposedly belonged to George Washington, were ceremonially hammered into the ground to mark the corners of the 7500-foot runway. These pegs were driven in by historian Albert Bushnell Hart, some collateral descendants of George Washington, and Henry Woodhouse. A replica of the first manned balloon to ascend in the United States was also launched at the site.¹² A reproduction of George Washington's schoolhouse was built on the northwest corner of the present Lockheed Boulevard and Harrison Lane.¹³ A decorative gateway arch was constructed at the intersection of George Washington Air Junction Drive (now Lockheed Boulevard) and old U.S. 1 (now Fordson Road).

Most of the land acquired for the George Washington Air Junction is now Huntley Meadows Park.

Why did the Air Junction fail?

Woodhouse maintained that Hybla Valley, unlike Bolling Field, was rarely flooded or foggy, a falsehood. In fact, the Air Junction was planned on marshland and is plagued with fog, while Bolling Field remained operational until recently. Anacostia Naval Air Station is still functioning and the base for the President's helicopters. Other aspects of the Air Junction proposal are also puzzling. Henry Woodhouse himself bought the land, rather than the government or even the Aerial League. Woodhouse then offered to lease

or sell to the government. All of the major airports in the United States have been built with public funds, most with federal money. Furthermore, a search of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum research library reveals no evidence that the Aerial League of America ever existed as a legitimate organization. Information is sparse about the Air Junction and its failure, but it is possible that the entire proposal was fraudulent.

A certain degree of infamy adhered to Henry Woodhouse, born Henry Casalegno in Italy, circa 1881.¹⁴ A 1916 biographical sketch of him (author unknown, possibly Woodhouse himself) states he was born in 1884.¹⁵ According to the Woodhouse biography, Casalegno, immediately after his arrival in the United States in 1904, became a contributor to several magazines, writing about aeronautics. This seems unlikely, as the next year he was a cook serving a four-year prison term in New York's Clinton Prison. The certificate of first-degree manslaughter is dated March 6, 1905 and was issued by the County of Rensselaer, City of Troy, State of New York.¹⁶ After being released, Casalegno adopted the name Woodhouse (the English translation) and did become a journalist specializing in the field of aeronautics. He contributed to several magazines, even founding one of his own, the weekly *Aerial Age* in 1915.¹⁷ He was also editor of the monthly publication *Flying*, but Woodhouse may have plagiarized, publishing under his own name articles appearing elsewhere and written by others.¹⁸ A 1918 notice by Mr. J. C. Mars to members of the Aero Club of America (of which Woodhouse was governor at the time) alleged that Woodhouse was a murderer, squandered public funds, embarrassed the government, and defamed the Aero Club. Mars denounced Woodhouse further:

Casalegno or Woodhouse, whichever name he is traveling under, at this time, is gathering proxys for another "cut and dried" election to put himself and triune group of supporters in office that they may further prostitute the Aero Club of America for their own personal gain. Do you believe this ex-convict, whose hands are stained with the blood of an American he stabbed to the heart in true black-hand style, and who has been guilty of many other reprehensible acts, is a fit person to represent your good name any longer?

...Russia is now undergoing a bloody insurrection as the result of permitting such would-be Rasputins to occupy positions of importance. If you have already signed the Woodhouse proxy, remember the law permits you to sign another. The last dated will be legal.¹⁹

Mars alleged also that Woodhouse registered for the draft in World War I, then claimed exemption on "essential labor" grounds. He suggested that Casalegno join the Italian army as they were in need of cooks. Woodhouse's humiliation by the Aero Club of America may have been the reason behind some of the Club's early records appearing for sale in a New York bookstore in the 1940's, leaving a serious gap in the history of atmospheric and flight research.²⁰

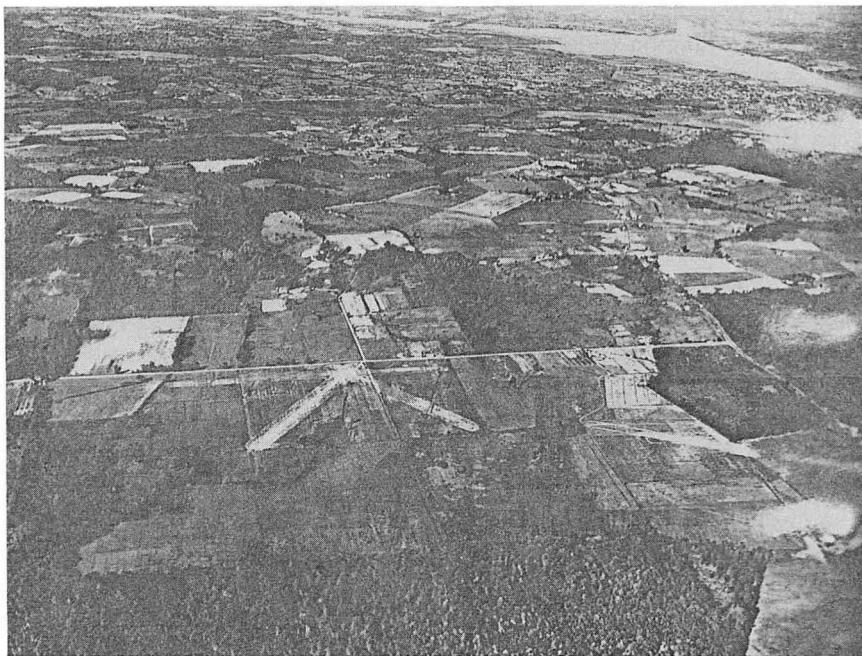
Henry Woodhouse claimed association with forty motion pictures of George Washington's life on the lands acquired for the Air Junction, as well as winning the first Academy Award for his film *Wings* in 1928.²¹ *Wings* did win the Academy Award for best picture for 1927/28. The film, starring Gary Cooper, Richard Arlen, Charles "Buddy" Rogers, and Clara Bow, and billed as an "epic film of war, romance, and daring in the air" was directed by William Wellman; Ray Pomeroy won an award for engineering effects. There is no evidence that Henry Woodhouse was in any way connected with the film.²²

Fairfax County land records show that Henry Woodhouse acquired more than 1500 acres in Mount Vernon Magisterial District between December 1928 and January 1930, mostly out of the "Oakley" and "Huntley" farms from Hybla Valley landowners. Working through the real estate firm of Fisher and Mannakee, Woodhouse purchased 166.66 acres from Samuel B. Moore (Fannie Betts' land),²³ 710 acres from Charles D. Sager ("Oakley"),²⁴ 305 + acres from Albert R. Harrison,²⁵ 100 + acres from C. P. and Thomas Thompson,²⁶ 81.5 acres from Carl A. Tavenner,²⁷ 47 + acres from Robert M. McKeown,²⁸ 15 + acres from George W. Reynolds,²⁹ 9 + acres from Ethel Hyatt,³⁰ 33.01 acres from Frederick J. Wease,³¹ and 10 acres from Charles A. Carlin.³² It is clear that Woodhouse intended to acquire much more land than he actually did. In his letter to the Board of District Commissioners, he describes the Air Junction as a

large, quadrangular tract...bounded for over two miles by the Washington-Richmond Highway, and on the northwest by Telegraph and Gravel Roads also for over two miles...³³

Actually, Woodhouse acquired less than half a mile on the Washington-Richmond Highway (Route 1) and barely half a mile along the Telegraph and Gravel (S. Kings Highway) Roads before the Air Junction bubble burst. Through defaults, foreclosures, and lawsuits, Henry Woodhouse lost almost all the land he had acquired for the Air Junction.

On December 1, 1928, the same day he acquired 166.66 acres of Fannie Betts' land, Henry Woodhouse mortgaged the land to John W. Brookfield.³⁴ Brookfield, on January 31, 1935, conveyed the property to Washington Airport, Inc.³⁵ In June 1929, Woodhouse conveyed 1281.86 acres of Air Junction land, plus all rights of way, in trust to Albert G. Ober, Jr. The property included the Tavenner, Thompson, Harrison, Sager, and Betts tracts.³⁶ Ober was vice-president of the Washington Air Terminals Corporation, a company "formed to establish and operate a completely equipped airport within a short distance of the business center of Washington."³⁷ Washington Air Terminals Corporation had acquired 106 acres along the Potomac River, used as an airport since the late 1920's and called Washington Airport. The corporation also held the "Thousand Acre" airport, the land Woodhouse



Aerial photo showing runways, George Washington Air Junction Drive (now Lockheed Boulevard), Harrison Lane, and U.S. 1 (Fordson Road). Photo by Orville K. Blake, St. Petersburg, Florida, 1929. Courtesy National Archives.

had mortgaged to Ober. In a letter to Senator Hiram Bingham, Chairman of a joint committee of the House and Senate to acquire land for a national airport, Ober pointed out that the Washington Airport was close to the city of Washington and was on the Potomac River, convenient for use as a seaplane base. Ober also mentioned that his corporation had acquired the "Thousand Acre" airport because the Washington Airport could not serve all the needs, present and future, of Washington air traffic. He wrote:

The larger airport is ideally situated for the reception of the lighter-than-air vessels, such as the Zeppelin. This ideal combination of a small close-in terminal and a much larger airport within a reasonable distance has come to be the accepted solution recommended by many eminent aeronautical engineers and was one of the suggested methods of Colonel Lindbergh in his testimony before this Committee...For several years the necessity for a nationally owned airport adequate for commercial purposes and both accessible and reasonable in price has been discussed in Congress and by residents of the District of Columbia. We suggest to your Committee the advisability of seriously considering our properties for the named purpose.³⁸

Ober included with his letter an aerial photo of the "Thousand Acre" airport, showing the runways and the Washington Monument and the Capitol in the distance. He offered the two airports to the federal government for \$1,500.00. Senator Bingham's committee eventually decided to combine Ober's Washington Airport along the Potomac with Hoover Field, a 37 ½ acre airport owned by International Airways, Inc., a subsidiary of Atlantic Seaboard Airways, Inc., and to develop them as Washington National Airport.³⁹ Having failed in his effort to sell the "Thousand Acre" airport to the federal government, Ober conveyed the land (almost all of Woodhouse's Air Junction) in trust to Real Title Corporation.⁴⁰

In January 1930, Woodhouse took another trust, conveying 15.864 acres to Gardner L. Boothe, being in debt to George H. Schwarzmann in the amount of \$6395.00, including interest.⁴¹ The 15.864 acres were sold to the First National Bank of Alexandria in May, 1936.⁴² The 47+ acres Woodhouse acquired from Robert McKeown in December 1929 was reconveyed by trustees to McKeown August 6, 1932.⁴³ By a decree in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County dated April 15, 1933, at the suit of *H. R. Burke et als vs. Henry Woodhouse*, 33.01 acres purchased by Woodhouse from Frederick J. Wease, was sold at public auction in front of the Royal Street entrance to the Market House in Alexandria. The land was knocked down to C. S. Taylor Burke for \$2,000.00. The same was reported to the Corporation Court of the City of Fredericksburg where the suit had been transferred. Burke assigned his title to F. J. Wease for "valuable consideration." The deed was dated May 24, 1934.⁴⁴ This same 33.01 acres evidently had additional trusts on it. By a decree of the Corporation Court of the City of Fredericksburg, entered December 5, 1935 in the suit of *Burke and Herbert Bank and Trust Company vs. Henry Woodhouse* the land was knocked down again to C. S. Taylor Burke for \$1,000.00. Burke again conveyed to F. J. Wease. The deed was dated April 2, 1936.⁴⁵ In 1935, a suit in chancery was filed in Fairfax County by Albert R. Harrison against Henry Woodhouse, whose address at that time was 280 Madison Avenue, New York City, and Robinson Moncure and Wilson M. Farr, trustees to foreclose on a deed of trust dated February 9, 1932,⁴⁶ from Henry Woodhouse, unmarried, to Moncure and Farr, trustees, on three tracts of land; 10 acres conveyed to Woodhouse by Charles C. Carlin and wife in 1929,⁴⁷ 9+ acres from Ethel Hyatt and husband in 1929,⁴⁸ and 69 acres, part of 305.85 acres, from Albert R. Harrison in 1929.⁴⁹ Woodhouse defaulted on the notes amounting to \$3,500.00 plus interest at 6%, or \$4,340.00. Moncure and Farr, as trustees, sold the note to Harrison who was now suing for sale of the land, plus costs including legal fees. According to testimony, Woodhouse had retained the real estate firm of Fisher and Mannakee to investigate and acquire land for an airport in the area of Hybla Valley. The firm was never paid for its services. Fisher and

Mannakee sued through Moncure's law firm. Woodhouse employed Wilson M. Farr and F. Shield McCandlish to represent him. He gave seven notes to Moncure and Farr as part of the settlement. Additional liens on the 69 acres included unpaid taxes from 1932-1936 with penalties and interest, and judgments in favor of the Burke and Herbert Bank and others. In Woodhouse's crossbill, he stated that the notes were "tainted with fraud" his signature having been obtained by "fraudulent representation," that he had published a notice in 1932 that the notes were null and void, that Harrison had set up a fraudulent claim to the note for the 69 acres which Woodhouse had bought from him in 1929 at \$200 per acre for a total of \$13,800.00. Woodhouse claimed that the note had been paid in full, that he owed nothing, and that Harrison had never given him the land. He maintained that he bought the land for use as a "historic park" which would have been profitable, that Harrison thwarted his plans causing Woodhouse "severe and heavy losses" in excess of \$50,000.00. In fact, Woodhouse demanded damages and costs in the amount of \$65,000.00. The land was to be sold at public auction at 3 o'clock p.m. April 20, 1936 in front of the Fairfax courthouse.⁵⁰ Woodhouse appealed. In his deposition taken before a notary public in the office of the National Arts Council in the Barbizon Plaza Hotel in New York City on Saturday, March 21, 1936, Woodhouse stated that he had bought 305+ acres from Harrison in 1929 to be used as "part of a great aeronautic, scientific, and historic center," and that the 69 acres were to be used particularly as a historic park. He charged that Harrison conspired with others to prevent the holding of historic celebrations before and during the festivities connected with the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birthday in 1932, and since. He claimed that he had a replica of Washington's schoolhouse built on the 69-acre site by George W. Tolk, at a cost of \$20,000.00 and that he had arranged with the Washington family to have a large number of records displayed there.⁵¹ The agreement between Tolk and Woodhouse reads, in part:

AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT entered into this 22 day of January, 1932, by and between HENRY WOODHOUSE, unmarried, of 280 Madison Avenue, City and State of New York, and of the George Washington Air Junction, Mount Vernon Magisterial District, State of Virginia, Party of the First Part, and GEORGE W. TOLK, residing at 155 East 43rd Street, Brooklyn, New York, Party of the Second Part.

This agreement and the terms and conditions thereof may be assigned by either of the parties hereto without the consent of the other party.

WHEREAS Party of the First Part is the owner of a large collection of Washingtoniana and other Americana, which includes notable memorabilia of George Washington and members of his family and most of the Presidents of the United States up to recent times, including records of distinguished achievements that are wholly unknown or little known and

WHEREAS Party of the First Part, having received applications for loans of items from his Collection from parties desirous of exhibiting same in different cities has formed the Historic Celebrations Association as the organization through which such items are to be made available, and has planned to arrange for the organization in every city in the United States, and abroad an Historic Celebrations Club, to bear the name of the City where it maintains its headquarters, for the purpose of providing an organization in each city to exhibit the said memorabilia and hold celebrations and memorials in honor of the men and women whose deeds and achievements have contributed to the building of the United States, or to the promotion of the arts and science, or benefitting mankind in any other way;

WHEREAS the Party of the Second Part is desirous of establishing and operating a club to be known as the Historic Celebrations Club of Washington, with the privilege of holding exhibits and events at Washington, D. C., and the communities surrounding the City of Washington, with permanent headquarters at the George Washington Air Junction, and to have a program of continuous weekly activities at the said Air Junction;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the sum of Five Dollars by each of the Parties to the other party paid, receipt for which is hereby acknowledged, and other considerations hereinafter provided, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

FIRST: All activities hereinafter provided shall be conducted in the name of the Historic Celebrations Club of Washington, and the parties of the Second Part shall be referred to as the "Club."

SECOND: Party of the First Part grants to Parties of the Second Part the right to establish and operate at the said George Washington Air Junction and elsewhere the following concessions:

1. To establish and operate the *Historic Celebrations Park*, a rectangular tract of land 2000 x 600 feet in size, constituting the major part of the southern half of the tract of 68.796 acres designated as the "Albert R. Harrison Tract" on the survey of the George Washington Air Junction made by Joseph Berry, C.E., January 30th, 1930...The said quadrangle shall be known as the "Historic Celebrations Park."

2. To use for the conduct of the activities provided in this agreement the balance of the said tract of 68.796 acres, until such time as said land may be required for extending the HUNTLEY MANOR development.

3. To hold at the said Historic Celebrations Park historic celebrations, masques, pageants, tableaux, plays and exhibits to which the public may be admitted by paying an admission fee of 25 cents or more per person, except children accompanied by their parents, who may be admitted free.

4. To reproduce at the said Historic Celebrations Park a full replica of George Washington's schoolhouse, to conform with the general characteristics of the Schoolhouse outlined by Washington at the age of fifteen.

...Party of the First Part agrees that...courses of historic pageantry shall be conducted...by the Historic Celebrations Club of Washington under the following conditions and procedure:

1. The Washington School of Historic Pageantry shall be conducted by the Historic Celebrations Club of Washington.

2. The charge is to be \$50. per course, which will entitle the subscriber to the right to start classes in his or her community, to receive 10 lessons by mail and copy of "Washington Pre-Eminent," and to attend the staging and screening that may take place on Party of the First Part's lands at the Air Junction or at Historic Celebrations Park operated by the Historic Celebrations Club of Washington.

3. The business management of the said School shall be under the direction of Historic Celebrations Association, but the actual management shall be vested in the said club.

4. Announcements of the establishing of the school will be supplied by Party of the First Part;

5. Party of the First Part will also supply to the said Club: (a) the letter offering the Courses on Historic Pageantry, (b) material for a pamphlet to be sent with the letter, (c) the ten lessons comprising the course, (d) copies of the book "Washington Pre-Eminent," (e) copies of a Handbook of Historic Pageantry.

6. The Club will send the letters to members, committees, and others interested, offering the Course at \$20. down, \$10. after each two lessons.

7. Upon receipt of the remittance covering the advance payment of \$20. for the Course of Historic Pageantry, the Club will enter same in a special account and will send to the subscriber:

(a) a copy of the book, "Washington Pre-Eminent,"

(b) a copy of the Handbook,

(c) the first two of the ten lessons.

8. When the subscribers return the first two of the ten lessons, they are read by a member, person or committee designated by Party of the First Part and will be returned to the subscriber with a form on which are noted the remarks of the person who read the lessons, with a percentage representing the subscriber's efficiency in each lesson.

9. At the same time will be sent the third and fourth lessons, and whenever two lessons are returned, two more will be sent until all ten have been sent, after which a certificate of efficiency will be issued.⁵²

Among the items to be displayed at the schoolhouse were: photostats of surveys made by George Washington; photostats of poems in Washington's boyhood handwriting contained in his copybook preserved in the Library of Congress; photostat of the title page of a book autographed by Mary Washington, the mother of George; photostats of pages from the original records of Truro Parish; a piece of the silk dress worn by Mary Washington; photostat of the original coat of arms and crest of the family of Mary Ball; a replica of the famous "Atheneum" portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart; and other copies and replicas of historic items.⁵³ The schoolhouse was to be dedicated April 23, 1932. Edwin Markham, noted American poet, was to be present. Many patriotic organizations and prominent Americans were invited to attend the dedication. Promotional leaflets were printed up, inviting visitors to the ceremonies. In addition to the dedication of the schoolhouse on April 23rd, there was a week of festivities planned, including a memorial to Washington's father Captain Augustine Washington,

a costume sketch of episodes in Washington's childhood, more memorials and pageants commemorating events in Washington's life. Woodhouse claimed in his deposition that when he and Markham attempted to attend the ceremonies, they were prevented by constables. He also charged that Harrison continued to use the 69 acres for cultivating and grazing but never paid him anything for the schoolhouse. He claimed he lost over \$50,000.00 in revenues in 1932 alone from his Historic Celebrations Park, a meeting place for the public and organizations interested in commemorating historic events, and that Harrison took admission fees and kept them for himself. Woodhouse charged that the firm of Fisher and Mannakee tried to defraud him, and when he terminated the contract, they brought suit and attached his land, but that they agreed to drop the suit if he signed the notes. Woodhouse's appeal was dismissed.⁵⁴ He prepared a second appeal, asking for cancellation of the notes plus damages "on account of the conspiracy to prevent the establishment of the airport and airlines engaged in interstate and foreign commerce." Woodhouse also alleged unfair taxation procedures, in which he claimed the assessor discriminated against him. The decree in the second appeal upheld dismissal.⁵⁵ In a letter dated October 24, 1935 to Gardner L. Boothe, attorney for Harrison, in response to a request by Boothe that Woodhouse pay the notes plus interest or the land would be sold, Woodhouse stated again that the notes were null and void, and that a conspiracy was waged against him. He added:

please tell Mr. Harrison to try to keep the lower part of the land, where the schoolhouse is, unplowed, with hard sod, so it can be used by cars when we start activities.⁵⁶

The sale was published in the *Fairfax Herald* and held on Monday, April 20, 1936 at 3 o'clock p.m. in front of the courthouse, Fairfax County, Virginia, "knocked down to Albert R. Harrison for \$4500...for cash when a deed is made."⁵⁷ Harrison offered to pay all costs and taxes in cash amounting to \$852.37 and offered the notes in settlement of the balance.⁵⁸ After the sale, Woodhouse still owed Harrison \$692.37. The commissioner's report was filed June 30, 1936, and confirmed by the court July 6. Woodhouse, typically, excepted to the report. He petitioned for a rehearing to the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia. His petition was denied. The sale was confirmed.⁵⁹ A deed dated June 5, 1936, from Moncure and Farr, trustees and special commissioners of sale, to Albert R. Harrison states that by a decree in *Harrison vs. Woodhouse*, 10 acres and 69 acres, part of 305 + acres, were knocked down to Harrison April 20, 1936.⁶⁰

Defeated in his efforts to establish the Air Junction, scientific center, and Historic Celebrations Park, Woodhouse turned to other interests. He continued publishing, but enlarged his fields of expertise to include art, manuscripts, television, recording, international affairs, engineering and science, in addition to aeronautics and motion pictures. In 1943, Gimbel

Brothers of New York City advertised for sale antiquarian items from the collection of Henry Woodhouse, and sent a flyer to Cecil Wall, Director of Mount Vernon. Mr. Wall requested to examine a ledger of Robert Lewis in account with George Washington, on approval. After examining the ledger, Mr. Wall returned it to Gimbel Brothers, with a letter dated October 25, 1943, stating that the item had been misrepresented in the brochure and that some of the statements were historically inaccurate.⁶¹ Christine Meadows, curator at Mount Vernon since 1960, remembers several incidents when items from the collection of Henry Woodhouse were offered to Mount Vernon by dealers and individuals. She says that some of the items were known to be spurious. According to Ms. Meadows, Woodhouse teamed up with W. Lanier Washington, a “black sheep” of the Washington family, and conspired to sell items to which they had added the Washington family crest.⁶² A letter signed by W. Lanier Washington, addressed to Mr. Henry Woodhouse, was published in the *Congressional Record* of December 10, 1928:

WESTPORT, CONN., *October 15, 1928.*

Mr. HENRY WOODHOUSE,
280 Madison Avenue, New York City, N.Y.

DEAR MR. WOODHOUSE: As the hereditary representative of the family of George Washington, I have had the opportunity during the past 40 years to examine, read, or consider the most important historical collections of the Washington and allied families; but I never believed that there was in private hands such a monumental collection of documents, records, surveys, etc., concerning the Washington, Lawrence, Lee, Fairfax, Fitzhugh, Byrd, Mason, Madison, Monroe, Penn, Franklin, and other families of the founders of this Nation as you have shown me.

Despite the efforts of many capable investigators it appears to never before have been possible to discover historic evidence establishing the identity of the Washingtons and their associations and the part they played in the outstanding events in continuity for about 10 centuries. You have accomplished it; and you actually have discovered so much regarding these historic personalities that you actually can present them in their proper relation to the events in which they participated.

With congratulations for your splendid achievement, I am

Very Faithfully yours,

W. Lanier Washington.⁶³

An artist named Hart joined with Woodhouse and Washington to create “authentic” portraits, one of which was purported to be of Mary Ball. According to Meadows, the painting was X-rayed, and a picture of a woman with a 1920’s hairdo was discovered underneath. For years, according to Meadows, Henry Woodhouse tried to sell to Mount Vernon a dressing gown, alleged to be the robe worn by George Washington during his last illness when blood-letting was performed on him. After many refusals, Woodhouse offered the robe free. Meadows stated:

We accepted it just to get it off the street. We have never displayed it, and nowhere can we find documentation for it.⁶⁴

The robe is calico, of a style worn during Washington's time, made for a large man, and has some bloodstains near the hem.

In the fall of 1953, Woodhouse evidently sent to the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. 109 documents pertaining to petroleum production in the Middle East. He received a courteous reply, addressed to Mr. Henry Woodhouse, Lincoln Galleries, 1195 Third Avenue, New York City, and the documents were returned to him.⁶⁵ In January 1957, Woodhouse wrote to President Eisenhower regarding U.S. policy in the Middle East. Again he received a courteous but noncommittal response from the Department of Justice thanking him again for the documents.⁶⁶

In a letter to William C. Bauknight, an attorney in Fairfax, dated February 28, 1957, Woodhouse claimed to be the author of "works on constitutional laws and the first textbook of aerial laws and regulations for air traffic and co-author of the laws governing radio and television in case of alerts." His letterhead was impressive. He listed himself as President of "Scientific Age – Broadcasts and Forecasts" and as the President of the Historic Arts Association and Historic Celebrations, Executive Chairman of The National Arts Council, Life Member of the United States Naval Institute and the Franklin Institute.⁶⁷ According to the Woodhouse dossier at the Air and Space Museum, he offered his million-dollar art collection to a Trenton, New Jersey, art gallery, a deal which fell through under vague circumstances.⁶⁸

In 1956, law suit #6898 was filed in Fairfax County Circuit Court styled *Tamara Bourkoun vs. Henry Woodhouse*, a petition by the plaintiff, a New York resident, to attach approximately 5 acres of land still owned by Woodhouse along Dogue Creek just south of the intersection of S. Kings Highway and Telegraph Road. The plaintiff stated in her bill of complaint that she had obtained a judgment against Woodhouse in the Municipal Court of the City of New York, Borough of Manhattan, First District, on December 19, 1955, for \$3637.00 and that the sum was still unpaid. Bourkoun claimed she had been employed by Woodhouse at an agreed salary of \$75.00 per week commencing the 2nd day of June 1952 until the 29th day of April 1953, a period of 46 weeks "during which time plaintiff received no monies though duly demanded."⁶⁹ In Woodhouse's answer to the bill of complaint against him, he moved for the immediate dismissal of Bourkoun's petition and for vacating the warrant of attachment of his property, on the grounds that the plaintiff had misrepresented her case. He admitted that she had obtained judgment against him in the New York court, but that her complaint has been previously dismissed by default and that he had appealed the judgment, which was still pending. He claimed that Fairfax County had no authority to issue a writ of attachment against his

property when the New York case was still undetermined. He also claimed that plaintiff's attorneys had offered to reduce the judgment to \$1,000.00. In his answer, Woodhouse stated:

...that the illegal attachment issued on said misrepresentations was procured for the purpose of causing defendant irreparable damages due to substantial depreciation of values of said properties for the patriotic programs planned to be held on said properties this year and next year, which are the 225th Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington, the 300th Anniversary of the Arrival in the Commonwealth of Virginia of Washington's great-great-grandfather, John Washington, and the 350th Anniversary of Captain John Smith's exploration of the lands which are part of defendant's estate.⁷⁰

Woodhouse further stated:

...Plaintiff – who was ignorant of American History and of celebrations, radio, television or motion pictures – applied for free tuition at defendant's Art Galleries for about 3 hours daily 5 days a week. Normally such tuition would have cost her \$50.00 weekly. She was not fit for any such services and left when introductions to eminent persons was refused because she secretly practiced fortune-telling, which is not lawful in the City and State of New York.⁷¹

Woodhouse also demanded that Bourkoun file a surety bond in the amount of \$50,000.00 to indemnify him for causing “substantial depreciation and irreparable damage to his estate and for having trespassed upon the estate of defendant.”⁷² In a letter to Edward E. Young, Deputy Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court, dated May 16, 1957, in connection with the Bourkoun case, Woodhouse used a different stationery, as impressive as the last. As before, the letterhead proclaimed Woodhouse as Chairman of the Historic Arts Association, but below this rubric was printed:

The activities of the Historic Arts Association were summarized in the following Resolution unanimously adopted by the Third National Arts Conference, held at the Hotel Astor, New York, September and October 1938, to consider plans for holding historic celebrations in the years 1939-1940:

Resolved, that the Historic Arts Association and its President, Mr. Henry Woodhouse, be and hereby are highly commended for their valuable achievement in providing the only organization which has for over 20 years dedicated itself to making possible the celebration and presentation of authenticated historic events with accurate reproduction of historic personalities and places, scenes and episodes of home, artistic, literary, business, industrial, scientific, social, public, and spiritual life, with original exhibits. They make possible the realization of George Washington's pledge that posterity would remember the deeds of those who contributed to the nation's founding and progress; and make available genuine history, which has been as rare heretofore as it was in 1817 when Thomas Jefferson wrote to John Adams: ‘A morsel of genuine history is a thing so rare as to always be valuable.’ The Association has provided records and exhibits for upwards of 1,000 celebrations, conferences, radio broadcasts, telecasts, motion pictures, and pageants, including over 100 for the New York World's Fairs 1939-1940.

In the letter to Mr. Young, thanking him for the certified copy of the order denying his motion to dismiss the case against him, Woodhouse apologized for not appearing in person to file his appeal.

The mass of work in public duties will deprive me of the pleasure of another trip to your beautiful country this time!⁷³

In support of his motion to dismiss, Woodhouse wrote to Mr. Bauknight, counsel for the plaintiff, at the Moore Building in Fairfax:

Indeed, as this order herein affects the lands of the illustrious George Washington and George Mason, a ground for granting this order may properly be that when Washington and Mason were facing possible loss of these lands due to illegal proceedings by the Crown, Washington, on April 5, 1769, wrote to Mason:

At a time when our lordly masters in Great Britain will be satisfied with nothing less than declaration of American freedom, it seems highly necessary that something should be done to avert the stroke, and maintain the liberty which we have derived from our ancestors...No man should scruple or hesitate a moment to use arms in defense of so valuable a blessing, it is clearly my opinion...⁷⁴

In a letter to Thomas P. Chapman, Jr., Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court, dated August 20, 1958, Woodhouse alleged that the Bourkoun case was settled in full in New York City December 19, 1957, and therefore there were no legal grounds for the case coming up in the Fairfax court. He also stated that he was confined to a bed in Bellevue Hospital since February 27th, unable to walk.⁷⁵ According to the deposition of attorney A. Bernard Frechtman August 27, 1958, the judgment still had not been satisfied and no compromise had been agreed upon by his client Tamara Bourkoun.⁷⁶ On September 2, 1958, the final order in the case *Tamara Bourkoun vs. Henry Woodhouse* was entered in Fairfax Circuit Court. The plaintiff was awarded judgment against the defendant for \$3,637.00 plus interest from November 5, 1956 and costs.

Henry Woodhouse, United States citizen, unmarried, died January 6, 1970, at his home at 55 Park Avenue, New York City. His will, written and witnessed December 25, 1969, was probated September 2, 1970 in Surrogate's Court of New York. A copy was filed September 12, 1974 in Fairfax Circuit Court.⁷⁷ Woodhouse left surviving him no spouse, children, relatives, or descendants. The will named Lucille Hudiberg of the same address, who cared for him in his last years, executrix and sole legatee. Ms. Hudiberg had to pay \$3,833.44 inheritance tax on real property Woodhouse still owned in Fairfax County valued at \$133,596.00. On December 14, 1970, Lucille Hudiberg of New York City conveyed all her right in 15.59 acres and 40+ acres, a narrow strip along Dogue Creek, to Douglass S. Mackall III, as trustee.⁷⁸

Epilogue and Conclusion

It remains unclear what Henry Woodhouse's exact motive might have been in stirring up interest in an Air Junction. It is conceivable that Woodhouse invented the Air Junction for self-promotion; he was all but forgotten in the aviation community by the late 1920's. The George Washington Air Junction does not exist, and never did. It seems likely that it was never intended to, that the venture has strong parallels to *The Music Man's* River City Boy's Band. Officials at the Air and Space Museum have never heard of the George Washington Air Junction, although they have extensive information on other failed projects. Certainly Woodhouse should have known that Hybla Valley was a less-than-ideal location for a large airport, as it was shrouded each morning in fog.

While Henry Woodhouse never produced his Air Junction with its Historic Celebrations Park and scientific center, evidence points to flight activity in the same area during much of the first half of the 20th century. In *Snake Hill to Spring Bank, volume II*, an oral history published by Groveton High School in 1977, Edward Stoops recalls what he referred to as the "Graf Zeppelin" landing at Hybla Valley.⁷⁹ However, research on Zeppelins shows no record of a flight to Washington. A listing of naval airship stations in use during World War II gives no mention of Hybla Valley.⁸⁰ It is possible that a blimp landed at Hybla Valley on a portable mooring mast, and that Mr. Stoops believed "Graf Zeppelin" to be a generic name for an airship. But a 1917 survey by the Signal Corps shows a 1203+ acre "aviation field" on the lands of Hardy (later Sager), Pierson (later Tavenner), Harrison and Betts.⁸¹ When Woodhouse defaulted and lost the 33.01 acres of the Wease farm in 1933, F. J. Wease sold the land to Elva A. Hamilton.⁸² She in turn conveyed it to Mount Vernon Airways, Inc.⁸³ In 1945, the same 33.01 acres were conveyed to Alexandria Airport.⁸⁴ Wease also conveyed 52+ acres to Mount Vernon Airways, Inc., in 1943.⁸⁵ In the same year, Mount Vernon Airways acquired 58.595 acres from Ellen and Landon Painter, Wease's neighbors.⁸⁶ At Huntley Meadows Park there is on display an aerial map of the Hybla Valley area, date unknown, likely mid-1980's. The map shows what appears to be the remains of an airstrip above the South Valley Shopping Center. The runway is in the same location as the 10 acres Woodhouse bought from Charles A. Carlin in 1929.⁸⁷ A 1957 aerial photo, taken in connection with law suit #6941, *Courtland Davis et als vs. Board of Supervisors*, shows two airports along Route 1, about 1 ½ miles apart, the northern field on the site now occupied by Beacon Mall, the southern field on the site now occupied by the Hybla Valley subdivision (part of the Hyatt sale to Woodhouse), the Hybla Valley Elementary School (part of the Wease farm), and the Mount Vernon Plaza Shopping Mall.⁸⁸ Frederick Wease's daughter, Mary Scheeler, who now lives on Fort Hunt Road in Alexandria, remembers the airplanes which used to fly there:

The airport there was more or less for trainers. You could go down there and take lessons. I know I'd sit in my bedroom and wonder whether the airplanes were going to get up over the barn or not.⁸⁹

Gerald Kidwell, an attorney now living in Springfield, Virginia, grew up in Hybla Valley in the post World War II years. He recalls a local rumor alleging that a small, round house off a road in the subdivision was used during the War by German spies to view the airport. When Kidwell himself, then in high school, replaced the roof, he found old German newspapers hidden inside, lending some credence to this rumor, though no other evidence supports it.⁹⁰

The story of Henry Woodhouse and the George Washington Air Junction and Historic Celebrations Park is filled with inconsistencies, conjecture, and legal entanglements. It raises questions that may never be answered. Did Woodhouse knowingly deceive the supporters of the Air Junction idea? Were all his claims fabrications? The evidence seems to tell us that the answer is "Yes!" In the words of Mary Scheeler:

Mr. Woodhouse, he was something else!⁹¹

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank the following people and organizations without whose time and assistance this report could not have been possible:

Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Dr. Dorothy Twohig, editor, *George Washington Papers*.

Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives, Constance Ring, librarian

Gerald Kidwell, attorney and longtime resident of Groveton/Hybla Valley area

Mount Vernon Ladies Association..., Christine Meadows, curator, and John Ryan, research historian

Paciulli, Simmons and Associates, Martha Barlow, librarian

Mary Scheeler, longtime resident of Groveton/Hybla Valley area

Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Research Library staff

John Weiler, researcher and friend

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Collard family cemetery. Courtesy Fairfax County Park Authority, Division of Historic Preservation.

The Collards of Groveton

by

Edith Moore Sprouse

I

Arundel Avenue in Groveton forms a loop, branching off from Collard Street. There is a small family cemetery at 3212 Arundel Avenue which contains four tombstones:

Sacred to the memory of Samuel Collard/departed this life July 8, 1852 in his 80th year.

Sacred to the memory of Sullivan Whitney/departed this life May 3, 1855 in his 70th year.

Eliza S. Whitney...(died) Dec. 26, 1872 in Washington D.C. Daughter of Samuel Collard.

John Ricketts Collard/1804-1875...his wife Stacia Millan/1805-1889.

Samuel Collard mentioned the graveyard in his will in 1847, stating that "the graveyard at the farm on which I reside and which is an old family burying place, about one-fourth acre, is to be kept forever, never to be conveyed under any circumstances."¹ Although he did not say so, the longevity of the plot had little to do with the Collard family but rather with the Darrells, into which he had married.

His own parents, Samuel and Agnes Collard, were from Prince Georges County, Maryland. The register of King George Parish shows Samuel Collard marrying Agnes Ouchterloney on October 31, 1762.² He was a tavern keeper who in 1770 and 1774 was licensed to keep an ordinary at the Eastern Branch ferry on the Anacostia River.³ By June of 1784 they had moved across the Potomac, Samuel serving on a jury that month in Fairfax County. He was again operating a tavern, now in Alexandria, by October. Collard died just before Christmas, 1785. He left an estate valued at L142.15.0.⁴ His widow survived him for some years and may have been buried at St. John's Church, Broad Creek, for a "Mrs. Collard" was buried there on June 13, 1793.⁵

Samuel Collard the younger purchased a lot in Alexandria on Queen Street, just east of Washington Street, just before Christmas in 1796. He was asked to witness the will of William Darrell, along with Darrell's brother-in-law Clement Brooke, in February 1798.⁶

Before the will was recorded the widow, Rachel Darrell, had become Mrs. Collard. By August 3, 1799 the newlyweds were living on her land in Fairfax County. Years later, giving a deposition in a chancery suit, Samuel stated

that he had lived in the vicinity of Muddy Hole Farm since that time. His wife held a life interest in the estate of William Darrell; she was allotted Lot #1 (101 acres) when the property was divided in 1809. Rachel's dower lot included the mansion house and the well-known landmark, Darrell's Spring.⁷

Darrell's Spring Branch is indicated on the map George Washington drew in the 1790's showing the roads from Mount Vernon to Cameron and to Pohick Church. Washington's cousin Lund noted in his accounts for 1767 the 18 shillings won at a barbeque at Mr. Darrell's.⁸ The spring was one source of the South Branch of Little Hunting Creek. The headwaters of the North Fork of Little Hunting Creek (now known as Paul Spring Branch) were also on Darrell Land. "Darrell's Hill" was the starting point of a foxhunt early in 1802, and by 1819 this location served to identify neighboring properties listed in the county Land Tax Books.⁹

The rest of the Darrell land went to his orphaned sons. Samuel Collard was appointed guardian of Walter S., Sampson, William S., and Clement B. Darrell. With an older brother, the boys later conveyed their portions to their step-father.¹⁰ Samuel and Rachel had a son of their own by 1804 (John Ricketts Collard), followed by a daughter Elizabeth and by James J. Collard. Except for the fact that he was recommended for the post of ensign in the 60th Regiment, Virginia Militia, little is known of this younger son.¹¹ Elizabeth married Sullivan Whitney of Philadelphia; she died in 1872.*

The acreage of the farm was increased by several purchases,¹² enabling Collard to give land to his sons in 1831. John R. received 107 acres from Samuel. Becoming a landowner may have prompted him to acquire a wife, for the following year John married Stacia Ann Millan, the second daughter of James Millan of Dairy Lodge.¹³ The Millans lived on Telegraph Road at Dogue Creek: their family graveyard is now surrounded by the sub-division of Tartan Village.

Rachel Collard died in the mid-1830's. Her widowed husband offered to rent their 270 acre farm, "Mount Pleasant". On September 20, 1836 it was advertised in the *Alexandria Gazette* as being located on the Mount Vernon Road three miles from Alexandria. There was a large apple orchard, springs, and a six room dwelling house with a good cellar. "On an elevated situation and there is a fine view of the Potomac," concluded Samuel.

If he rented the farm it was for a brief period, for on July 17, 1838 he and Margaret Burke recorded their marriage contract.¹⁴ They had no children of their own, but Samuel was still in good health a decade later when he made his will. They were still living on the home tract, which he planned to devise to his daughter Elizabeth for her lifetime. It would then pass to his son John. John would inherit the land on the east side of the Mount Vernon

*Tombstone in Collard cemetery names Elizabeth's husband Sullivan.

A record in Fairfax Courthouse gives his name as Phineas (Deed Bk U3:104)

Road, purchased from Robert Gilmore. Margaret was to have the use of the farm for a year after his death, plus five acres at the corner of the Mount Vernon and the Clifton Roads. This lot, located at the present intersection of Popkins Lane and the Richmond Highway, was to have water access to Darrell's Spring forever. In addition Margaret would receive another tract of 140 acres.

His slaves were to be freed at the age of 35, except for a few who should be emancipated after the current crop was harvested. None were to be sold out of Fairfax County, in order that "they can be close to court records guaranteeing their freedom."

Collard wrote his will in August 1847, but found it necessary to add a codicil in 1851. He had moved to an adjacent property once owned by the family of his first wife. It was acquired from Alfred Riker, a more recent owner. "Retirement" fronted on the King's Highway and consisted of 106.5 acres. (The farm is presently the Stoneybrooke subdivision.) Samuel Collard died on July 8, 1852, after a lengthy illness. He was eighty years of age and "had been a professor of religion, and a member of the Methodist Church", according to the obituary notice.¹⁵

After his death his lands, then consisting of Mount Pleasant and Retirement, descended to his daughter Eliza and his son John. That year John attempted to sell the interest held by his wife in the estate of her father. He had recently advertised for sale another tract called "Fairview", which had a dwelling house and seventy acres under cultivation. In 1859 he offered the Groveton farm for sale. This land had 160 acres, with a good dwelling, stable, corn house and smoke house.¹⁶ In the census of 1860, however, John, his wife, and their four children were still farming the Groveton land. Daughters Virginia and Mary were in their early twenties; Samuel and Helen were 15 and 13. Two other daughters, Rachel and Eliza, had married J. Owen Kerby and Bernard Kerby of Prince Georges County, Maryland. Eliza had a daughter Annie and a son Bernard before she died. Her widowed husband then married Mary Collard.¹⁶

On August 9, 1869 a curious article appeared in the *Alexandria Gazette*:

Wild Cattle--Eight of a drove of Texas cattle, lately brought in by Mr. F. R. Windsor, escaped from their enclosure at Hayfield, a short distance below this city, last week, and are, from all accounts, kicking up high jinks in that neighborhood--so great an alarm have they created, indeed, that some persons are afraid to leave their houses. On Saturday last, one, a little more mad, perhaps, than the rest, invaded the premises of Mr. John Collard, and chased his son Samuel into the house, and was only prevented from following him by the door, which, fortunately, was closed before he reached it. The enraged animal, however, finding another door in the house open, rushed through it, occasioning, as may well be imagined, the utmost consternation among the occupants. After his unsuccessful attack upon young Mr. Collard, the enraged beast seemed as

wild as the bulls to whose tails burning faggots were tied in classic times, and spying Mrs. Fenneghan, a lady residing near there, at a distance, he made directly for her, and she was only saved from instant death by jumping behind a large tree. As it was, his horns reached her dress and tore it from her back, and he threw a jug that she was carrying into an adjoining field. He then visited Cameron Mills, drove everybody out of the watermelon patch there, and had commenced to destroy property when he was shot and disabled, before he had committed any further damage than the demolition of a grinding stone. He was shot by Mr. George Bossart, to whom he had been sold running by Mr. Windsor, for \$40.

Rachel Collard's husband, J. Owen Kerby, served as a justice of the peace for Fairfax County. After the civil war, he occasionally officiated at the jousting tournaments held in the Groveton neighborhood. These became a popular entertainment with mounted "knights" vying to spear brass rings rather than conquer an opponent. The winner, who might have chosen a fanciful title such as "Knight of Despair", had the privilege of choosing the "Queen of Love and Beauty" to preside over the festivities. Speechmaking was a part of the program, of course. In 1874 "J. Owen Kerby, Esquire, delivered the coronation address with greatly admired skill and eloquence" when the maids of honor were crowned at the Pohick tournament. The following month young Sam Collard won third place in the jousting, choosing Miss Fannie Barton as one of the maids of honor. The next tournament was held at Darrell's Spring on October 15, 1874. There were eighteen knights competing before an audience of some 300 people. Later they danced from ten until two in the morning.

When the tournament was held there the following year, the location was described as being at Kerby Spring. The change of name became an announcement of the end of an era. On October 13 the *Alexandria Gazette* reported that "Mr. John Collard, an old and well known resident of Fairfax County, during a fit of mental aberration strayed away from his home yesterday evening and after remaining in the woods all night, wandered into the city..." Shortly afterwards the paper stated that he had been judged a lunatic. Within a month he had died at the home of his son-in-law J. Owen Kerby. "At one time he was one of the most prosperous citizens of the county, but misfortune overtook him and in later years his mind gave way under his accumulated troubles."¹⁷

Collard outlived his sister Eliza by only three years. She had not lived on the Mount Pleasant tract inherited from their father, but had buried her husband there in 1855. She farmed the land with the labor of six slaves in 1860, growing a small amount of corn and oats. In 1872 she died in Washington, D.C., and her tracts of 216.25 and 62.5 acres reverted to her brother.

Collard's widow Stacia and their unmarried children lived on the Groveton tract for many years. Stacia died in November, 1889. Samuel Collard and his sister Helen assumed the burden of caring for Virginia, who was of unsound

mind. The tenor of their days was marked only by such incidents as Sam's horse running away when he was hauling milk cans into Alexandria. He damaged the wagon and, of course, spilled most of the milk.¹⁸

The next death was that of J. Owen Kerby. The local paper noted on April 28, 1905, that he "continues quite ill at Mount Pleasant, his home in Fairfax County. The recent death of his twin brother, F.A. Kerby, Sr., in Washington, prostrated him, and for several days it was thought he would not recover".¹⁹

In 1906 the Collard heirs instituted a friendly chancery suit to have the land partitioned. The Retirement tract had been rented out for several years: this, along with the Groveton farm, was allotted to Samuel, Helen and Virginia. Mount Pleasant was divided into three parts. Lot #1 had 89.25 acres and was allotted to Bernard Kerby (surviving husband of Mary Collard Kerby) and his daughter Helen Townsend. As the surviving husband of Eliza Collard Kerby (his first wife), Bernard and the two children of that marriage received Lot #2, 109.25 acres. The eight heirs of J. Owen and Rachel Kerby, dec., held Lot #2, which included the homestead and the graveyard in the center part of the tract.

In 1908 Samuel and Virginia were sued by their sister Helen in order to enable the interest of Virginia in the land to be sold to provide for her support. Another group of heirs sought to divide Lot #2; by 1909 Arthur Kerby (the nephew of Samuel Collard) acquired the house and the graveyard.²⁰ Samuel sold 43.5 acres of the Groveton tract to Samuel Ayres in 1909; he advertised Virginia's 50 acres in 1913 after her death the previous year. The farm extended north to the North Branch of Little Hunting Creek.

Samuel purchased Virginia's interest in the Retirement tract, where the Collards were living at the time of her death. He said he had been caring for his sister since he was sixteen years old.

The old homestead which had been home to generations of Darrells and Collards burned on New Years Day, 1916. The contents of Arthur Kerby's house were destroyed, the loss estimated at \$3000, and the insurance was small. Arthur Kerby rebuilt the house on the same foundations, and it remained in the family until 1934. At that time the 84.5 acres which made up the middle part of Mount Pleasant were sold at auction, the graveyard still reserved in perpetuity as by the will of John Collard. When the last of the Collards died at Retirement in 1925, however, he was not buried in the family cemetery.²¹

The Collard house has changed hands several times. It was owned from 1936 by the family of John Parrish, a former county supervisor. In 1967 it was sold to Kenneth Swartz. The spring has survived. It is shown as an unnumbered lot on the plat of the present Valley View subdivision, down the hill and south of the house. The spring, the graveyard, and the house are an integral reminder of the past history of the Groveton community.²²

II

It seems probable, although no exact connection has been established, that the Sampson Darrell whose name first appears in Stafford County records in 1686 was a member of that Buckinghamshire family who lived not far from Windsor Castle. In the village church at Fulmer a Jacobean tomb has this inscription:

Heere in a vault in the South Ile of this church lye ye bodies of Sir Marmaduke Darrell Knight, sometimes Lord of this Mannor and Anne his wife, daughter of John Lennard of Knoll in ye Countie of Kent Esquire, which Sir Marmaduke was Servant to ye famous Queene Elizabeth in her warres both by Sea and Land, and after in her household. He was Cofferer to King James of blessed memory and dyed Cofferer to that excellent Prince King Charles. He was favoured by all these renowned Princes and employed in matters of great trust for ye space of fifty years, in all which he acquitted himselfe with Credit and Commendation. He was eminent for Devotion towards God, Charitie and Humilitie towards his Neighbour, and Mortification of himselfe. He built this church at his own charge and gave a yearly Exhibition to ye Poore of this Parishe, for ever, and did both in his lifetime. He left two Sonnes behind him, Sir Sampson Darrell Knight who married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Christopher Hampden of Wendover in ye Countie of Bucks Esquire... He died ye 22th of March Ann. Dei. 1631.²³

Sir Marmaduke was a member of the Virginia Company.

One branch of the family settled in Bermuda in the mid-17th century; another came to Virginia. Sampson Darrell, a mariner, bought 350 acres of William Green's 1669 patent on Pohick Creek in 1686. The tract began at the mouth of Accotink and took in the tip of the neck between the two creeks. Then about twenty-six years of age, Darrell was becoming well known in the neighborhood. In 1688, when John Pimmett drowned on his land above the Little Falls of the Potomac, Darrell was familiar enough with that area to be sent upriver to take charge. He appraised the property, paid off an old Frenchman who had sheltered the children, and brought the three orphans back down the river.²⁴

Writing to his agent in London in May, 1688, William Fitzhugh requested him "Pray, if Mr. Darrell be come to you yet remember me kindly to him", adding that if a certain kind of carriage were available and Darrell were able to bring it into the colony free of freight charges "I could be very well contented." The London merchant John Cooper reported, "I advised and persuaded two Gentlemen, Mr. Hayward and Mr. Sampson Darrell, to make their consignments (of tobacco) to you."²⁵

That Darrell, although he had no public office in the colony, was by now referred to as Gentleman may well have been due to his marriage to Margaret, daughter of Capt. John Norgrave, dec. She and her sister inherited 600 acres on Potomac Creek. Sampson wasted no time petitioning

the court to order Norgrave's widow to release a cow and a "Signet of Armes" bequeathed in his will. He was awarded the cow but was told the ring had gone to another heir.²⁶

In addition to these claims, he had acquired some indentured servants. James Wild told the court in March, 1689/90 that although he had completed his time, Darrell refused to give him the agreed-upon three barrels of Indian corn. Wild had received part of the freedom clothes but demanded a coat and breeches. His master was told to produce these when the next ships arrived from England or else pay Wild their value in tobacco. He had a plowman named William Harris, who testified about a hog killed by one of the negroes. Harris may have been working on Darrell's land farther upriver, for which Darrell had purchased livestock at the sale of John Pimmett's property.²⁷ The date of his acquisition is uncertain, but by 1692 he was referring to his "frontier plantation at Pimmett's",²⁸

Another servant, William Marshall, would be put to work in the lower part of Stafford County, for in November, 1690 Darrell was chosen, along with Ambrose Bayly, to take charge of building a new courthouse for Stafford County. In this connection Darrell offered to collect the county levy after the sheriff declined to do so. There is no indication that his collecting tactics may have caused trouble, but a year later he was attacked and severely wounded by one James Mussen.²⁹ Darrell had just come through an unpleasant encounter with one David Darnell, who pointed a pistol at him. "He then and there swore by ye blood of God that if your deponent approached one Inch nearer hee would Send all that was in ye pistoll into my Skeull which he swore was within an inch of ye Muzzell."³⁰

As if this were not enough, a formal complaint was presented to the court charging that Darrell had not lived up to his agreement. Construction was lagging, and he was forced to put up a bond guaranteeing to have the building finished in June, 1692. Bayly, who had done all of the carpentry, told the court that he had never been paid his share according to contract although the justices were already holding court in the new structure. Darrell was ordered to pay his partner 10,000 lbs. of tobacco immediately. When the final settlement of accounts was made in June, Darrell added insult to Bayly's injury by adding an amount to "my man Marshall--his daily attendance a full fortnight whilst you lay drunk at ye Ordinary and would not worke".³¹

People were stealing hogs that spring, and in May servants on his frontier plantation had been summoned as witnesses and detained by George Brent, lawyer for the plaintiff. Darrell argued that the charge against him was malicious, that his workers were needed upriver as there had been rumors of unfriendly Indians in that area, and that the delay in hearing the suit was deliberate. "The Persons concerned in this scandalous accusation...would gladly shake hands in the ruin of your Petitioner's person." He denied that

his employee had stolen a large black spotted barrow hog from the plaintiff's plantation, brought it to Darrell's house on Aquia Creek and butchered the animal in preparation, with Darrell's complicity, for taking the meat upriver to the Pimmett quarter.

Previous attempts had been made to blacken his character, but "honour, honesty and Planty, the three great motives of Reputation, is and always was I thanke god not soe barron as to admit of so great an indignity." The verdict was in his favor, but the damages awarded were less than the jurors fees.

In the midst of all this turmoil Sampson Darrell was himself acting as attorney for other litigants. He was already a Lieutenant in the county militia when a new troop of rangers was formed in June, 1692 to deal with Indian unrest on the upper Potomac.³² At age 31 he was determined to protect his own interests as well as those of his colony. In addition to the plantation on Pimmett and his tract on Pohick Creek he bought 300 acres on the south branch of Little Hunting Creek and obtained a grant for 200 acres on Dogue Run.³³ This latter tract would later become part of Washington's Mount Vernon plantation. A last mention in the 17th century records occurred on September 13, 1693 when Sampson was in court defending the claim to his deceased wife's land on behalf of their three sons--Sampson, William and Benoni Darrell.³⁴

William Darrell married Ann Fowke Mason, daughter of the second George Mason, about 1711. Like her husband, she too was a grandchild of Capt. John Norgrave. (Norgrave's widow had married the first George Mason.) In November, 1715 he obtained a grant for 714 acres on Pimmett Run "known by the upper chestnut grounds." That same year they found they would inherit 598 acres after the death of Thomas Sandiford's wife, located below Hunting Creek.³⁵

William and Ann's eldest son, Sampson, was born in 1712 and there were other children before William died four years later, as the Stafford County quit rent rolls for 1723 list 1414 acres under his orphans.

Ann Darrell married Thomas Fitzhugh, clerk of the county court and son of Col. William Fitzhugh. Their only child died in infancy, and the death of Thomas himself in 1719 ended the brief marriage. Only in her third marriage did she find a lasting relationship, for Thomas Smith lived until 1764. In 1750 they were living on the land she had inherited thirty-five years earlier from Thomas Sandiford. On the day before Christmas they divided the tract on the Potomac in half, giving their daughter Mary the upper part and Susanna the lower. The deed of gift was recorded in the spring, although the tract was as late as 1764 listed in the rent rolls under Thomas Smith's name. By 1770 this land was charged to Ann's son Sampson Darrell with the explanation "from Smith", the acreage diminished to 543 acres.³⁶

Until he became twenty-one, young Sampson was a legal ward of his uncle, George Mason III. When he controlled his own property he began issuing leases to Pearce Noland in 1735, to Joseph Guess in 1738, and half a dozen others. John Williams, one of Darrell's overseers, said that he had worked for several years and that "he never received more than the common allowance of 300 lbs. of meat a year, and that he never knowed him to allow an overseer any more an that he never allowed them any liberty of killing any Stock for there one use."³⁷

Occasionally problems arose concerning his indentured servants. One ran away in 1748. Three years later William Hore took off. Both Elizabeth Coventry and Catharine Blinston were brought into court for having bastard children. Neither one was willing to pay a fine; Elizabeth could not put up security and Catharine, a convict servant who would be back in court for the same offence a second time, flatly refused to do so. Both were ordered to serve their master for an additional year and both received twenty-five lashes at the whipping post "well laid on." Thomas Phoset, a 5' 7" tall weaver by trade, "who steps very high in his walk" went off in 1768. His master offered a reward of L3 if he were returned. An echo of the difficulties which his grandfather had experienced with servants appeared in the Fairfax County court orders when the justices ordered that Jonathan Carrington be discharged from his service. Darrell was told to pay both costs and 7/6 as the lawyer's fee.³⁸

During the 1740's Darrell had become a Justice of the Fairfax County Court. He and Zephaniah Wade, who had been suing one another in a dispute concerning the boundary between their lands, found themselves in the summer of 1743 assigned by the Truro Parish vestry to "procession" or examine the boundaries of all the patented lands between Dogue Run and Hunting Creek. His own tracts of two and three hundred acres were sold to George Washington in 1757, representing the first addition to the Mount Vernon plantation. These tracts, inherited from his father, were still subject to his mother's dower interest during her lifetime. Washington's account book recorded the transaction on Dec. 19th, noting that a partial payment of L260 was paid. The transaction was not completed for two years. Washington noted more than once in his diary that the deed could not be recorded because Mr. Darrell was not in court, and it was 1759 before Ann Darrell Smith and her husband Thomas conveyed her dower interest by an annual lease.³⁹

There were other land transfers. In 1748 a tract of 121 acres on the west side of the north branch of Little Hunting Creek was purchased from John Carlyle. Sampson and his wife Mary sold it in 1772 to George Mason. They would leave their sons Sampson and Philip the old "frontier plantation" on Pimmett Run, and their son William would inherit the home tract after Mary's death. Surviving rent rolls show that in 1760 he owned 783 acres, 700 in 1764. In 1770 there were only 390 acres (although his son

Augustus was charged with 155 acres perhaps obtained from his father), but Sampson's total was augmented by the 543 acres designated by the phrase "of Smith."⁴⁰

Little concerning their children has come to light through the records. George Darrell, who at the time of his death was being sued for Trespass, Assault and Battery by Ann Boswell, left his estate to his brother Philip in the spring of 1771. His will was witnessed by his mother and his estate administered by his father. Their son Augustus, who had served as his father's deputy when Sampson's turn came to act as county sheriff, had also collected the parish levy in 1769, dined at Mount Vernon in 1768, and married the widow of George Johnston, dec. between August and September 1771. Shortly after his marriage he was charged in court with having twice sworn profanely "by his God" within a two day period. Augustus died in the winter of 1777; his father, the executor, lived only until the fall of that year.

Augustus had no children and left his estate to his wife for her lifetime and then to his brothers William, Philip and Sampson and to Elizabeth, Cordelia and Ann, his unmarried sisters. Cordelia died unmarried in 1782, Elizabeth was to marry William Payne, Sr. after 1785, and Ann between January and April of 1777 became the wife of Walter Brooke, Commodore in the Virginia Navy.⁴¹

Philip married Sarah Lane, daughter of James H. Lane of Loudoun County. Sampson Darrell, Jr. was sued by Nancy Reagan in June, 1781 "on a promise of marriage." It must have been taken seriously, for she extracted L500 in Virginia currency as well as "other considerations" before letting him off the hook. Oddly enough, the deed was not recorded until fifteen years had passed.⁴²

When Capt. Sampson Darrell died in 1777 his widow Mary inherited the 400 acre home plantation as well as six slaves and the personal property. Few details are known of her life. She did give a deposition in 1771 stating that she was over forty years of age and went on to describe the shoreline of the Potomac near the present Dyke Marsh, as it had appeared years before. During the later years of her life she was living on the range of hills above Hybla Valley. When in 1788 George Washington asked permission to close the public road which ran through his land to the ferry landing, he drew a map to show that this would not inconvenience the local traveller. The explanation mentioned the ridge where Mrs. Darrell lived and indicated the location of her house. There she died in the winter of 1795, attended by Dr. Cook and Dr. Elisha Dick, Washington's physician. The inventory of her estate listed a riding chair, a backgammon table and her husband's spyglass. Among the farm items were a cotton gin and two beehives. The executor of her estate was the son who would inherit her land, William Darrell. Unfortunately William had only a brief time to enjoy his ownership, for he died within three years of his mother. Born in 1746,

he had married Rachel Brooke of Washington County, Maryland. Their five sons--Thomas, William, Sampson, Clement and Walter--were quite young when their father died. He left instructions that the property was not to be divided until all of the children came of age. Rachel's brother, Clement Brooke, witnessed the will.⁴³

Rachel, with her widowed sister-in-law Ann Brooke, was among the ladies who were invited to the Washington's birthday ball in Alexandria in February, 1799. The record is silent as to whether they accepted the invitation. By the following summer, however, Rachel's period of mourning was over and she became Mrs. Samuel Collard.⁴⁴

III

When Samuel Collard moved from Mount Pleasant in 1851 to an adjacent tract known as Retirement, he was still on familiar soil. It had been the home of his wife Rachel's daughter Ann Darrell from her marriage in 1777 to Walter Brooke until her death in 1823. Rachel herself had been one of the Maryland Brookes. Moreover, both the Brookes and the Darrells were descended from George Mason II.

Mason's daughter Sarah, named for her mother Sarah Taliaferro, was the only survivor of his children by his third marriage. She inherited land in Charles County, Maryland and tracts in Fairfax County which included acreage on Dogue Creek (later to become Woodlawn Plantation) as well as the property which would be named Retirement. A portion of this latter tract is now the Stoneybrooke subdivision.⁴⁵

In December, 1734 Sarah's marriage contract with Thomas Brooke was drawn up. Since she was not yet of legal age an agreement was made between her intended husband and her brother George Mason III her legacy was still in her brother's hands; he agreed to relinquish the land and slaves to Brooke after their marriage took place. The stipulation was made that the assets would pass to her children on her death. A sensible precaution, apparently, for it was later said that "it was notorious that her intended husband had run through the greater part, if not the whole of his Estate" before their marriage.⁴⁶

The Brooke family had been in Maryland since 1650, when Robert Brooke arrived in his own vessel with his ten children, a pack of fox hounds and 28 servants. Not only had he been given the usual powers granted by Lord Baltimore, but he would have control of an entire new county. Charles County was subsequently established adjacent to Brook's landholdings.

Thomas Brooke was born in April, 1706. He had two children by his first wife and two sons by Sarah Mason. With their sons Walter and Richard the Brookes lived on their plantation in Charles County called Nonesuch or Brooke's Ferry.⁴⁷ When Thomas died in 1749, "it was generally thought he had died more in debt than his estate could pay." Sarah must have been

thankful for her brother's precautions concerning her land. She remarried about 1754 to Roger Chamberlin who died six years later. Sometime after 1774 Francis Mastin became her third husband. During this period of time Sarah was listed on surviving rent rolls as owning 400 acres.⁴⁸

Walter Brooke, the son of Thomas and Sarah, was only eight years old when his father died. He became a midshipman in the British navy and by 1771 was master of the merchant ship *Martha*, of London. Four years later he obtained a Captain's commission in the Virginia Navy; in the spring of 1776 Brooke was in command of the sloop-of-war *Liberty*, which later that summer was anchored off Alexandria.⁴⁹ On April 8, 1777 he received an appointment as Commodore, but was forced to resign in September of that year because of ill health. (According to his granddaughter he suffered severely from gout.) Having served in the navy for three years, he became eligible for warrants for bounty land awarded by Virginia to its veterans and in 1783 was given a warrant for 6666 2/3 acres.⁵⁰

The year of his resignation became as well the year of his marriage. In January, 1777 Ann Darrell's brother referred to her as Ann Darrell in his will; her father, writing in October, called her Ann Brooke. She was about twenty years of age, the daughter of Sampson Darrell of Fairfax County. Her brother William also married into the Brooke family. His wife Rachel was the sister of Clement Brooke, and after the death of her husband Rachel Darrell would marry a Collard. Family tradition relates that Commodore Brooke was urged to settle in the Mount Vernon area by his friend George Washington, who said of him, "If ever there was an honest man, Commodore Brooke was one."⁵¹

It is equally as likely that the newlyweds settled near the bride's parents on land which may have been owned by Walter's mother. No deed has been found for Walter Brooke's purchase of the tract which he named, appropriately, Retirement. On this four hundred acres their three sons and two daughters were born. Walter Taliaferro Brooke died in 1788 at age six. According to a granddaughter, the tombstone was ordered by Washington through Lafayette in Paris. The accuracy of these legends may be uncertain, but Washington's diary entries do indicate that the two men dined together occasionally.⁵²

The Brookes gave another son the name of Walter, this time with Darrell as his middle name. Walter Darrell Brooke married Lucy Triplett in 1799, sired four children, and died in 1811. A third son was Benjamin M. Brooke. Their daughter Mary Cordelia was named for her maternal grandmother and aunt. By 1815 she had become the wife of Jabez Rooker of Baltimore. Ann, the youngest, was still under legal age in 1815.⁵³

Commodore Brooke continued to enjoy Retirement until his death. He did not leave a will, but the inventory recorded on March 29, 1798 listed furnishings indicative of a comfortable lifestyle. There were six mulberry

chairs, twenty Windsor chairs in red or green, a neat mahogany card table and a large walnut dining table. Two mahogany stands held glass cruets and there were also two stands for decanters. His coffee service was of French silver plate, and he had a dozen silver tablespoons. He owned a riding chair and harness, and the estate was valued at L2227. This included the 44 slaves and even Brooke's old spy glass from his naval service.⁵⁴

Some years after his death the estate had not been divided, which caused some dissention among the heirs. In 1810 it was advertised for rent by Walter D. Brooke, then living at Mount Eagle. He stated that there were three fields, each containing eighty to one hundred acres and well adapted to the cultivation of corn, wheat or tobacco. In 1813 Walter's widow and his brother Benjamin both attempted to sell their interest in Retirement, and the next year Ann Brooke put the entire 553 acres on the market, stating that she was the sole authorized agent entitled to dispose of the property. She may have become uneasy after a burglary had taken place in which her husband's pocket watch "of English made silver, with the name of Walter Brooke on its face" had been stolen.

The estate may also have been entailed, since another offer a few years later mentioned an enabling Act of the Assembly, passed February 21, 1818, for the sale of "all of the Retirement tract to which the widow and heirs of the late Walter Brooke are entitled, plus the dower of the widow."⁵⁵ The widow died there in 1823, although Benjamin Brooke had finally managed to sell his 101 acre portion of the tract after its division among the Commodore's heirs. Ann's daughter Mary Cordelia and her husband Jabez Rooker were there in 1828. He informed the reading public that "Board in the Country may be had during the warm and sickly season at Retirement, a most healthy and pleasant situation within three miles of Alexandria."

Earlier that spring the acreage allotted to Mary's sister had been sold at auction, the result of a suit brought against Ann (by now Mrs. John Graeff) and her husband. The Rookers, however, remained on the plantation. In 1833 they tried once more to sell:

Retirement- 100 acres on the main Southern Mail Road. A large frame dwelling, large barn, stables, orchard, etc. In point of health and beauty of situation it cannot be surpassed by any farm in this country. The house is situated on an eminence and commands a view of the river Potomac, Mount Vernon, Fort Washington, the White House, etc.

Apply to the subscriber at the office of the United States Telegraph, Washington.

J.B. Rooker⁵⁶

Not until 1843 did the Rookers manage to sell their land. Oddly enough, there were three owners inside of a year before Retirement was purchased by Albert Riker. A New Yorker, he acted as agent for the widowed Catharine Remington. She came south to Virginia, he talked her into marriage, and before long she was suing him for refusing to turn over the tract purchased

with her money. Riker was in debt to a neighbor, Samuel Collard. He failed to repay the debt of \$600, and finally in 1851 Collard became the owner of the 106 ½ acres. His purchase included "all manure and material for the same and all stuff and things on the said farm or in the buildings."⁵⁷

For the next three quarters of a century the plantation remained in the Collard family. At times it was rented out. By 1906, when the estate of Collard's only son was divided, Retirement, along with the Groveton tract, was allotted to three of his grandchildren. J. Samuel Collard testified at that time that there were about eighty acres of cleared land on the farm, a house and a barn, and some good cedar timber.

He lived there with his two sisters until his death in 1925. It was then sold by his executor to Lt.Col. Elias Beadle, who lived there for six years before he put it back on the market.⁵⁸ One potential buyer was Admiral Fletcher, whose interest dropped when he learned of the grandiose plans to build the George Washington International Air Junction at nearby Hybla Valley. He purchased Araby in Charles County, Maryland, and Retirement was sold instead to Senator Robert M. Lafollette of Wisconsin in June, 1931.

Neighbors began to speak of the farm as "Lafollette's Folly." He never lived there, made wary by the near defeat of a fellow senator who owned another colonial estate in Fairfax County. Senator Bristow lived at Ossian Hall; he almost lost his bid for reelection when his opponents accused him of playing the country gentleman in Virginia rather than tending to business on Capitol Hill. Such political capital was made that at rallies his foes often persuaded the band to break into the strains of "Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny" rather than a musical salute from his home state.⁵⁹

Consequently Lafollette made few changes in the house, which was described as a two storey frame dwelling with a five-bay front, center door, outside end chimneys and a high gable roof.⁶⁰ In 1938 the roof was damaged by fire. "Good work by the Franconia Fire Department and by volunteers kept the flames from spreading," reported the *Fairfax Herald* of May 13th.

Retirement was sold in 1944 to Benjamin Cohen, an Alexandria jeweler. The house had become somewhat run down. Little remained of the interior woodwork except some panelling and chair rail. Unsuccessful in their attempt to sell the panelling, the Cohens gave it to a family across the road to be used as kindling. A small amount was salvaged by a neighbor and put into the sun room at Mount Erin. It was said in the neighborhood that colonial letters were found between the woodwork and the walls as the house was remodelled. The Cohens did keep the frame, the old beams, and rebuilt upon the basement foundation. Wings were added, the modest frame covered with stone veneer, and the facade embellished with a columned semicircular portico. At the entrance a fieldstone wall was built, with a bronze plaque on the gatepost. "Retirement" had now become "Benmae Manor".

Some years later Mrs. Cohen spoke of its former appearance. "It had a flat roof, and was smaller than the present center section of our house. There are still some old beams in the basement." and were there really letters from Cornwallis or Washington? "Oh yes. I think we gave them to the workmen. The old mantels? A neighbor took them, it seems to me."⁶¹

As time passed and subdivisions swallowed up the old farms, there came another change of name. The widowed owner conveyed the tract to Berlage-Bernstein Builders and seven hundred houses were planned. "Stoneybrookel!" announced the real estate section. "A historic tract where the first admiral of the Virginia Navy lived, during the Revolutionary War!" Along with the wonders of barbeque terrace, ski run, play fort, and tennis courts in adjacent county parkland advertised by the developers, there was sensitivity toward the natural environment in their use of a relatively new land-planning technique known as pipestem lots. These elongated clusters, served by a common or dual driveway, were well suited for building on hillsides and enabled builders to provide more open space. This was conveyed, along with the former farmhouse, to the county as parkland.⁶²

Although the Brookes would find little which was familiar about their old home, now a community center, and no trace of the family cemetery where they buried their son under a French tombstone, they would discover today a comfortable, prospering community covering the plantation they knew as Retirement.⁶³

Notes

1. Fairfax County Will Book W:281.

2. *Index to the Register of King George Parish*, Prince George's County, Maryland 1689-1901, p. 27 (p. 299 of the *Register*).

3. R. Lee Van Horn, *Out of the Past: Prince Georgians and Their Land*. Riverdale, Md.: Prince George's Historical Society, 1976.

4. *Virginia Journal & Alexandria Advertiser*, Oct. 28, 1784; Dec. 22, 1785.

5. *Register*, p. 398.

6. Alexandria Deed Book H:149; Fairfax County Will Book G:393.

7. Darrell's will was probated Sept. 17, 1799. The August date is determined by Collard's deed in M:372; his statement is in Chancery Final File #93-d (1847), *Turney v. Herbert*.

8. Lund Washington, *Account Book, 1762-1784*. United States Naval Academy Library. Mss. 1201. Entry for October 10, 1767; "Mount Vernon: The Roads from Mount Vernon to Pohick Church and to Cameron". Plate 6, *The George Washington Memorial Atlas*. Lawrence Martin, Editor. Washington: United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission, 1932.

9. *Alexandria Advertiser & Commercial Intelligencer*, Jan. 12, 1802. "A pack of hounds will throw off near Darrell's Hill on Monday the 18th."

10. Fairfax County Deed Book 02:28, 309; L2:252; N2:4, 372; Q2:99.

11. Fairfax County Court Order Book, 1824-1827, p. 5 (Dec. 20, 1824).

12. Fairfax County Deed Book Z2:351 (Collard to Collard); P2:41.320; Y2:36,360.

13. *Phenix Gazette*, December 10, 1832. The wedding took place on the 6th at Dairy Lodge.
14. Fairfax County Court Order Book. 1835-1842. p. 177; Deed Book D3:570; Margaret Collard's death was reported by the *Alexandria Gazette* on Sept. 9, 1854.
15. Fairfax County Will Book W:218; *Alexandria Gazette*, July 16, 1852.
16. *Alexandria Gazette*, Nov. 27, 1851; Mar. 23, 1852; Sept. 14, 1859; Cff. #138-c (1906).
17. *Alexandria Gazette*, Aug. 26, 1874; Sept. 16, 1874; Aug. 31, 1876 (dancing); Sept. 29, 1875; Oct. 15, 1875; Nov. 20, 1875. In the suit of *Coxon v. Padgett*, Cff. 15-bb (1868) it was stated that John R. Collard had been declared insolvent in 1868.
18. *Alexandria Gazette*, Nov. 29, 1889; Feb. 19, 1896.
19. *Fairfax Herald*, Apr. 28, 1905.
20. Chancery Final File 138-c (1906); *Kirby vs. Collard*; Deed Book W6:28 (plat); Cff 115-c (1908) *Collard v. Collard*; Deed Book D7:60.
21. Chancery Final File #208 (1912); *Collard vs. Allison, etc.*; his sisters died in January, 1912. At Ivy Hill Cemetery, their tombstones give these dates:
 J. Samuel Collard Feb. 21, 1845-March 14, 1925
 Virginia Collard Nov. 4, 1835-Jan. 26, 1912
 Helen Collard Nov. 25, 1847-Jan. 25, 1912
22. Fairfax County Deed Book L-11:547; E-12:142; 2953:256; Fairfax County Plat Book 2:9.
23. Fea, Allan. *Old English Houses: The Record of a Random Itinerary*. New York: Scribners Sons, 1910. P. 48, 49. Memorial brasses of the Darrells may also be seen at Collinbourne, Wiltshire, and at Brandsburton, Yorkshire.
24. "Living with Antiques: Blackburn Place, Warwick Parish, Bermuda". *The Magazine Antiques*, August, 1979, p. 358. Stafford County Record Book 1686-1693, p. 29. William Greene to Sampson Darrell, November 28, 1686; p. 230-a, Pimmet's estate account.
25. *William Fitzhugh and his Chesapeake World*. Richard B. Davis, Editor. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1963, p. 241, 254.
26. Stafford County Court Order Book 1689-1693, p. 44, Apr. 7, 1690. This land on Potomac Creek was sold in 1707 (Stafford County Deed Book Z:383); p. 86-87 Sept. 9, 1690.
27. *Ibid.*, p. 19 March 10, 1689/90. Darrell also tried to avoid paying Jane Smith at the end of her four year term of service (p. 233). Stafford Records 1686-1693 p. 248; 230, March 21, 1688.
28. Stafford COB, p. 251. Pimmet's estate account had shown a debt to Darrell, and when Darrell's son William obtained a grant of 714 acres in 1715 it was located on both sides of Pimmetts, "alias the upper Spout Run...known as the upper chestnut grounds." Mitchell, Beth, *Beginning at a White Oak*, Fairfax, Va.: Fairfax Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1977, p. 153.
29. Stafford Record Book, p. 198-a. William Marshall bound himself to Sampson Darrell, mariner; p. 179-a, indenture for courthouse, Nov. 14, 1690; Stafford COB, p. 122, offer to collect levy, Dec. 10, 1690; p. 187, attacked by Mussen, Nov. 12, 1691.
30. Stafford Record Book, p. 212 attacked by Darrell, Oct. 6, 1691.
31. Stafford COB p. 194 Nov. 13, 1691; p. 216 Feb. 11, 1691/2; Record Book, p. 262, account.
32. Stafford COB p. 205 Feb. 10, 1691; p. 251 May 10, 1692; p. 276 May 13, 1692.
33. In his 1691 deposition against Darnell, Sampson gave his age as about thirty. Mitchell, *White Oak*, p. 79 deed from exr. of Charles Rose, dec. Feb. 20, 1691/2 for part of Matthew Thompson's patent. (Stafford Record Book, p. 238.). Mitchell,

p. 153 grant for 200 acres. This tract was regranted to his grandson and namesake in 1717.

34. Stafford COB p. 376 Sept. 13, 1693. A Sampson Darrell, Gent., was in Gloucester County in 1707 when the land on Potomac Creek was sold. Stafford Record Book 1699-1709, p. 136 Aug. 5, 1707. There was also a Sampson Darrell who in 1753 worked on William Randolph's "Wilton", on the James River.

35. Copeland, Pamela C. and Richard K. MacMaster, *The Five George Masons: Patriots and Planters of Virginia and Maryland*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1975. p. 18, 48. Mitchell, *White Oak*, p. 242.

36. *The Register of Overwharton Parish*, Stafford County, Virginia 1723-1758. compiled by George H. S. King. Fredericksburg, Va: by the author, 1961, p. 226. Fairfax County Deed Book C:110.

37. Deposition of Bryan Allison, March 26, 1748, in suit of *Marshall v. Darrell*. Map Division, Library of Congress. Lease to Noland, Prince William County Deed Book B:465; lease to Guess, D:40. Deposition of John Williams, Sept. 17, 1746. Fairfax County Papers, MSS Division, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

38. *Maryland Gazette* 8/31/48; 7/10/51, 9/29/68; Fairfax COB 11/20/54, 5/19/59, 11/21/65, 7/17/69.

39. *Minutes of the Vestry, Truro Parish, Virginia 1732-1785*. Lorton, Va.: Pohick Church, 1974, p. 38. *The Diaries of George Washington*, Vol. I, p. 239n; Ledger A, p. 49. the patent for the smaller tract, granted in 1694 to Darrell's grandfather and reconfirmed in his own name in 1717, is in the library of the Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. Fairfax County Deed Book D:659, lease Sept. 20, 1759.

40. Fairfax County Deed Book B:309, K:54; Fairfax County Will Book D:40. The 545 acres were in the 1764 rent rolls charged in Thomas Smith's name.

41. Fairfax COB May, 1771; Fairfax Will Book C:18; *Diaries*, II:254n, Mar. 10, 1768; *Truro Vestry*, p. 118. In the August court she was Sarah Johnston, Exx. of George Johnston. In the following month Darrell appeared as co-admr. Fairfax COB Nov. 21, 1771 presentment; Fairfax Will Book D:3. Cordelia's will is in D:416. Elizabeth was unmarried when she witnessed the will of Humphrey Peake in that year. In Deed Book U:1 she is noted as Payne's wife. In her brother's will Ann was mentioned as Darrell, but in October her father's will called her Ann Brooke.

42. *Overwharton Register*, p. 67n. Philip's daughter was named for her grandmother Mary Smith, whose marriage appeared in the *Register* in 1758; Fairfax County Deed Book 2:18.

43. Mary Darrell's deposition is in Fairfax County *Land Records of Long Standing*, p. 110; *The Writings of George Washington*, John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1944, XXX:158; Fairfax County Will Book G:69, 107-109; William Darrell in 1785 said he was 39 years of age, testifying in the suit of *Alexander v. Birch*, Prince William Land Causes 1789-1793, p. 257; Fairfax County Will Book G:393, H:128, I:358.

44. Powell, Mary. *The History of Old Alexandria, Virginia*. Richmond: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1928, p. 142. The marriage took place on July 18, 1799, according to the register of the Presbyterian Meeting House.

45. Pamela C. Copeland and Richard K. MacMaster, *The Five George Masons: Patriots and Planters of Virginia and Maryland*, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1975, p. 21; Prince William County Deed Book E:33.

46. Prince William County Deed Book C:485; Lawrence Lewis and Nelly Custis Lewis File, statement made Apr. 29, 1805 concerning an impending lawsuit by heirs of Sarah Brook. Mount Vernon Ladies Association Library.

47. Robert E.T. Pogue, *Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County*, New York: Carlton Press, Inc., 1968, p. 327; *Maryland Historical Magazine*, I:377.

48. Lewis File, MVLA; *Fairfax County Rent Rolls 1770-1772, 1774*.
49. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, X:89; *John Glassford & Company Ledgers*, Volume 122, "Invoice and Letter Book, Port Tobacco Store, 1771-1774", Manuscript Division, Library of Congress; Revolutionary War Pension Application of John Collinsworth, S.30965, National Archives.
50. *Papers Concerning the Virginia Navy in the Revolution*, Brock Collection, Box 160, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA.; *Select Committee on Revolutionary Claims*, Virginia House of Delegates, 1834. In 1831 Brooke's heirs received another land warrant for an added 3333 1/3 acres when it was confirmed by the state that his allotment should have equalled that accorded a Brigadier-General of the Army. (Louis A. Burgess, *Virginia Soldiers of 1776*, Vol. 3, p. 1037.)
51. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, I:331.
52. *Ibid.*, X:89; Diary entries for June 9, 1785; March 20, 1786; March 31, 1787 and August 27, 1788.
53. Charles County, Maryland Court Proceedings 1812-1817, August Term, 1817. Order for sale of Brooke's Maryland lands, by the petition of his heirs; Fairfax County Deed Book 02:214.
54. Fairfax County Will Book G:398.
55. *Alexandria Gazette* Sept. 28, 1810; Nov. 6, 1813; Dec. 9, 1813; March 15, 1814. The silver watch advertisement was on Aug. 6, 1813, and that mentioning the legislation appeared on Aug. 8, 1818.
56. *Maryland Historical Magazine*, XXIX:155; *Alexandria Gazette*, Mar. 5, 1828; June 30, 1828; Aug. 2, 1833.
57. Fairfax County Deed Book H3:218,242; I3:215; Fairfax County Chancery Files #80-O, *Remington v. Riker*. Fairfax County Deed Book K3:408; Q3:33.
58. Fairfax County Chancery Final File 138-C, *Kerby v. Collard*; Fairfax County Deed Book M9:495.
59. Interview with Elisabeth S. Enochs of Mount Air, March, 1967. Mrs. Enochs has lived in the area since 1914. Fairfax County Deed Book X10:123; Enochs, Nov., 1975.
60. *Historic American Building Survey, Fairfax County*, "Collard House", Library of Congress.
61. Fairfax County Deed Book 443:161. Conversation with Mrs. William Orr, owner of Mount Erin, May, 1966; Fairfax County *Historical Society Yearbook*, IX:36; Conversation with Mrs. Benjamin Cohen, c. 1966.
62. *Washington Post* May 17, 1969; Jan. 10, 1970.
63. The tombstone was moved by a relative to Charles Town, West Virginia, and re-erected in the cemetery of Zion Episcopal Church in 1880.

Letters of Charles Cummings, Provost-Marshal of Fairfax Courthouse, Winter 1862-1863

Introduction

In 1986, in response to an inquiry by the Fairfax County History Commission concerning a missing record book, the Vermont Historical Society sent a list of documents in their collection pertaining to Fairfax County. The record book was not among the items listed, but of considerable interest was a series of letters written during the winter of 1862-1863 by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Cummings of the 16th Vermont Volunteers. From their first encampment on East Capitol Hill, the regiment marched to Camp Seward, three miles west of the present 14th Street Bridge, on the ridge overlooking the Pentagon. From there they moved within a week to Camp Vermont, about two miles south of Hunting Creek. Just as winter quarters were completed, the regiment was ordered to march to Fairfax Courthouse, where they arrived December 13th, 1862. Lt. Col. Cummings was appointed Provost-Marshal the next day, when he "took peaceable possession of a fine brick building, two stories high, erected as an office for the County and Probate Clerks." He further writes, "...the office is full of old papers going back two centuries or more. I use for my pillow one of these old volumes."

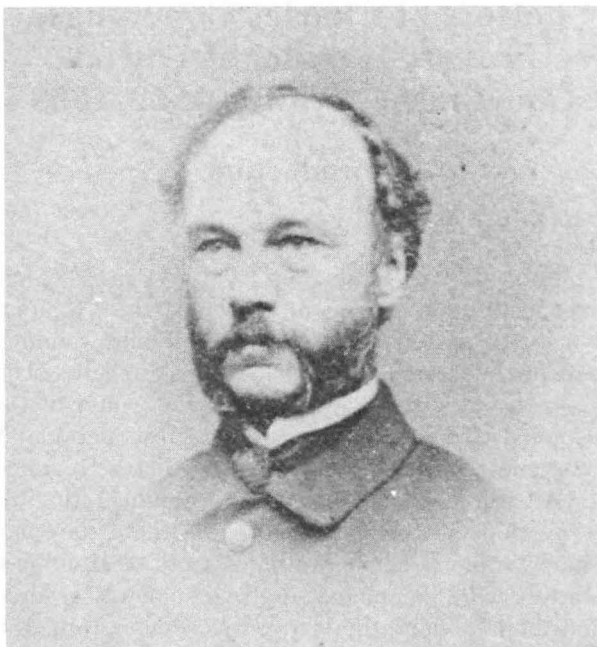
The letters reveal Cummings as a literate, intelligent, and compassionate man, convinced he was doing his duty in helping to put down, in his words, "this accursed rebellion." The letters are valuable for their detailed descriptions of camp life, of the Virginia weather and landscape, and of Fairfax Courthouse during this period.

Editor

(No. 2)
East Capitol Hill
Oct 29th 1862 8 P.M.

Dear Wife

The 2nd Vermont Brigade, composed of the 5 new Regiments, are to move tomorrow - Wednesday morning - in accordance with orders just received to Camp Seward in Virginia - three miles from the Alexandria side of Long



Lieutenant Colonel Charles Cummings, 1862. Courtesy Vermont Historical Society.

Bridge. To-day we were assured by an officer on Gen. Casey's staff that we were likely to remain here at least two months. Accordingly we purchased stoves for our tents, and ordered lumber for the floors. My stove is not yet up - it is a little sheet iron concern - oval in shape with two holes on top six inches in diameter with covers. The funnel runs out through a rip made in the tent. My tent is just like the one that we had in the 11th Regt.

Today I rode down Pennsylvania Avenue past Willards Hotel & the Presidential mansion to corner of G and 22nd St to the office of Capt. Robinson who furnishes forage for officers horses. I went to head-quarters to learn how to untie the particular red tape used in this connection.

The tenement occupied by "Old Abe" is respectable in appearance, and I should judge decently comfortable. It is large enough for his family I presume - but not so large as I had supposed. I did not call as I am the last comer and ordinary etiquette would forbid my making the first visit, inasmuch as he could have known of my arrival by consulting the War Department. Nearly opposite the War office I was stopped by a patrol and asked for my pass. I cheekily told him that I had just come to town and was on my way on official business to Secretary Stanton. "All right" said the credulous officer and I passed on. Ordinarily it requires papers from the Colonel, Brigadier and Maj. Generals to visit the city. But I have had as yet no curiosity to see any of the sights.

Our mess is composed of the Colonel, Lt. C. Major, Adjutant & Quartermaster. We left the Chaplain to unite with the Surgeons, and the non-commission staff have a mess by themselves. Today we had sweet & Irish potatoes, pork sausages & beef steak for dinner with pickles, cheese & coffee. For tea, bread, butter, cheese, tea and preserved peaches. When we get away from Washington we shall not fair so well.

The nights are foggy & cold - more than at Brattleboro I think. I caught a magnificent cold Monday night, but it is all in my head and nose. My appetite is good and I sleep well.

Tell Mrs. White that Abner is well. I have just spoken to him. He is on guard & as cheerful as a cricket. Albert S. White of Co.B. was left at Philadelphia in the Hospital of the Ladies Relief Association sick - threatened with a fever.

A large number of the men have taken cold sleeping on the ground. They are not so sick as to be unfit for duty - only coughing, and blowing their noses.

Please direct your letters to "16th Vt Regiment, 2nd Vt Brigade, Camp Seward, near Washington D.C."

Give my love to mother Kiss the babies and accept my assurance of loving remembrance.

Your affectionate Husband
Charles-

P.S. I send that poetry this time C.

(No. 3)
Camp Seward near Washington
Nov. 2d 1862

My Dear Wife - Your letter of the 31st (No.1) was received in camp this Sunday afternoon, and I cannot tell you how much pleasure it gave me. I can well appreciate your feelings in relation to our separation in thinking of my own, but you judge wisely, I think, when you conclude it not best to dwell upon the subject. I purposely omitted reference to the subject in my letter. We will accept as a matter of stern necessity and make the best of it!

Mrs. Harris was paid, or rather the money was left with Joseph Clark who holds the note, \$40, on account of this years interest on the house. She wanted some money badly and as I had intimated in the Spring that perhaps I would pay half yearly asked me for it at the same time acknowledging she had no claim upon me for it. She is a little fussy. If we do not move soon into the (next line missing) I will send you \$10 to pay John & Mrs. W's milk bill. Frost & Goodhue's advertising bill to date will probably cover all I owe them. I told Goodhue so. You will want dry wood for the furnace. There is some splendid furnace wood under the shed, but if you can get along without it perhaps it had better be saved for the stove & fireplace.

Our regiment is encamped about three miles from Washington southwesterly, on a large farm run to waste. Who is its proprietor is more than I know. There are no buildings on it, and the cellar hole was filled up last year by troops encamped in this vicinity. It is not much more than five rods back of my tent, and over it are growing tomato vines on which were found small, ripe tomatoes. The camp is about half a mile from the pike leading from Washington to Fairfax C.H. Four larger forts are in plain sight, and one of them, Fort Albany, is less than a mile distant. Our camp fronts the South, and in that direction about 5 miles distant towers against the sky the imposing building known as Fairfax Seminary.

We came here Thursday. Our whole brigade marched through Pennsylvania Avenue nearly to the President's House then turned & crossed Long Bridge. The sight in the Avenue was splendid, so said O.H. Platt, now Paymaster, and L.E. Chittenden, Register of the Treasury - both of whom you know. We all encamped near by when wood (trees felled last year to give range to the guns of the forts) and water is plenty. The ground is quite dry and rolling, the best the Colonel says he ever saw in Virginia. And the delightful weather of the past few days makes it comfortable. The days are hotter and the nights damper & more chilly than in Vermont. One takes cold easily by evening exposure here. Thursday we laid out our camp & pitched our tents in season for supper at 8 o'clock in the evening, having no dinner except such as we carried in our haversacks. Friday we policed the camp, got together forage and provisions &c. That evening we received an order for a Division review of about 16 regiments under Gen. Silas Casey, in whose Division we are, at 11 o'clock the next morning on the plain near Fort Albany - about a mile distant. Friday morning came, the line and then the column was formed and the troops just put in motion, when an orderly came riding up with orders for us to strike our tents and in an hour be ready to march to — Creek near Alexandria, three or four miles distant. Accordingly everything was packed in half an hour, and my horse stood in front of my quarters saddled and bridled with a great coat on in front & blankets behind. Then the order was countermanded as to the 14th, 15th, & 16th regiments, for reason that before we move our miserable guns are to be exchanged for something better - I am sorry to say that we cannot get the Springfield musket. We must take up with Enfield, Austrian or some old smooth bores, but anything will be better than the seven different styles - all poor - that we now have. Our arms will probably be exchanged tomorrow & we shall move in a few days. Rumor hath it that a formidable expedition is fitting out for Texas under Gen. Banks and that Vermont Brigade is to form a part of it. I do not even guess as to its truth or falsity, but I am ready to go where & when ordered so that I can serve my country.

My health is fine, remarkably good. My appetite excellent, and my food relishes well. We have in our mess fresh & salt beef, salt pork, good beans, rice, and sweet & Irish potatoes & some "fixing up" purchased of the sutler. Friday the boys saw within our guard lines a splendid hare & presented it to the officers mess. They live well enough now, & I should be well content with half the variety. I do not think our board will cost us more than \$12 per month, if it does as much.

I had a luxury today. I got up at 7 o'clock and took my pail, basin sponge and towel and went about $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a mile to a fine spring; got a pail of water, and then a few rods off in the middle of a thousand acre lot, with scores around me doing the same thing, I stripped and gave myself a thorough washing. I tell you the water did not feel half as chilly as it does in the chamber. It felt warm and good, not a pimple was raised, and then the walk back to quarters with my basin &c in one hand & a twelve quart pail of water in the other gave me a glow that I have felt all day. I never so enjoyed a wash in my life, but then I should never think of doing such a thing at home. After breakfast I inspected the entire regiment, dress, arms, equipment, clothing, tents, kitchens, cooking utensils, &c. It took me three and a half hours, and I worked smartly.

Gen. Baxter was in camp to-day. He rode past me while I was inspecting my regiment, so I could only bow to him. Tripp came out with us, & has been here most of the time. Several of the Brattleborians in the Vt Cavalry two miles off have visited us. Capt. William White - brother of John of the 142nd New York was in camp to-day. I see hosts of people that I know, but when we get further away we shall see less of friends. I have not paid a visit nor eaten away from my regiment, nor shall I do so if I am well except when on official business - at least at present.

Today heavy cannonading in the direction of Centreville & Thoroughfare Gap has been heard almost continuously. There is fighting in that direction somewhere. More than 20,000 troops have moved from the vicinity of Chain Bridge in that direction to-day. As to results you will get them in the New York papers sooner than we. I get a Washington paper about every morning before 7 o'clock a.m. & a New York paper of the day previous at the same time if I want but I do not get many as I have no time to read newspapers. I bought two & carried them two days before I could look at them. All the papers I want at present is one from Vermont. I have not seen one since I left.

I thank Lizzie for her "letter." Tell her she is papa's darling and that he thinks of her and little Charlie, their mother and grand mother every night when the labors of the day are ended. He sends the little dears a lot of kisses. Give my love to Mother and rest assured of the fond remembrances and affection of

Your loving husband
Charles

(No. 4)
Head Quarters 16th Vt Regt
Camp Vermont
Nov. 8 1862

Dear Wife:

Yours of the 5th, postmarked Nov.6, & No. 3, was duly received this evening. Your No. 2 was also as duly received. This has been a busy week

with me, and now at half past nine I sit down to write you - a pleasing duty.

Monday at 2 P.M. we started from Camp Seward on notice of an hour and a half and left the south corner of Alexandria at the corner of the ten miles square constituting the original District of Columbia, for our present camp below "Hunting Creek" about a mile west of the Potomac and about 8 miles north west of Mt. Vernon. I think you can find about our locality on the map. We marched a somewhat circuitous route about 10 miles, passing Fairfax Seminary, naturally one of the loveliest places I ever saw, now despoiled of much of its beauty by a year and a half occupation by our troops. The buildings stand on an eminence that overlooks a panorama from N.W. to S.E. fifteen to twenty miles distant including Washington, Alexandria, Georgetown, and numerous small villages & the Potomac with its fleet of vessels & steamers. The buildings are in good order & consist of a large central edifice, finer than any building in Vermont except the Capitol, three large Halls for dormitories or boarding houses, a Chapel twice as fine as the Episcopal Chapel at Brat^o, & other outbuildings. The cupola of the main building is 150 to 175 feet high and commands a magnificent prospect, and is itself a landmark for a circle 30 to 40 miles in diameter. These buildings are in a fine grove of oaks covering 50 or more acres, in which is a large Episcopal Church, the old Fairfax mansion &c. The Fairfax Estate at one time contained I believe from 10,000 to 20,000 acres, & the Fairfax family was one of the "F.F.Vs," & the especial friend of Washington. The Seminary is now used as a hospital for our sick soldiers. Trees have been cut down, the slopes marred by encampments, and two graveyards containing the dead bodies of more than 300 of our men speak in strong but silent language of the unwritten horrors of this accursed rebellion. On the estate are encamped at least 15,000 troops & perhaps many more. We, in common with the other Vermont Regiments, are encamped on ground that was occupied last winter by Union soldiers, on Mr. Somebody's farm, and not 40 rods from his dwelling, which is guarded by sentinels to protect his family and preserve our men from license. A white flag is hoisted in his yard to indicate this protection. His barns are used for stabling horses, his farm is despoiled, and he is prevented from communicating to any considerable extent with the outer world, & yet some of our officers think and say that even his family, women & children should receive no protection because their head is at heart a rebel. The Colonel & I fight warmly such inhuman notions. We cannot see why his larder should be robbed & defenceless females, children & "niggers" be left to starve or beg on account of the notions the head of the family may entertain so long as he deports himself quietly.

Thursday I was field officer of the day and as such had charge of the pickets. These consist of four companies, and are stationed from 2 to 3 miles from camp, the chain extending from the Potomac irregularly 8 miles westward. I visited all the posts twice in the day time and once in the night. In the 24 hours I rode from 40 to 50 miles horseback, through forests, ravines, pastures and brush and brier. The night visit was pleasant in the extreme. The Major accompanied me at his own request to learn

how to discharge the duties. My only draw back was a persistent diarrhaea that caused me frequently to dismount. The night was light as the moon was near her full and the excitement of espying the pickets of riding up hill and down, jumping fences, ravines, ditches and dodging boughs,&c. I cannot portray. The night ride was made as rapidly as possible consistent with my duty and yet it took me from 8 ½ PM to 3 a.m. It was cold but I did not suffer much. Where I touched the saddle looked the next morning like half done mutton and was about as *tender*. But I am quite well now and free from lameness and almost from soreness. I am rapidly learning to ride, can gallop a mile in a little more than two minutes, and feel quite secure in my seat. My horse is a jewell. He can camp out with no other stable than a fallen tree top, although for a few days he has had a log stable, is kind and gentle as a kitten, eats everything he can get, even dead grass & leaves, & is the pet of the camp. He is altogether the handsomest horse in the regiment as well as the best. Under the curb bit & spur he "gets up" magnificently. I can sell or swap him any time, but he can't be bought. He does not know enough about galloping without doing it at a break neck speed, but he will soon learn.

Yesterday we had a regular Vermont snow storm. It snowed all day, and the wind blew in such fitful, driving gusts that I could not make my stove draw; so I was wrapped in my great coat all day. The snow piled in drifts 12 to 18 inches deep. This morning it was frozen stiff, and even the water in my tent pail was frozen over. To night the snow is nearly gone, and the melting mood of the article associated with the soft Virginia mud is disagreeable. There is not grit enough in the soil to scour knives & forks well. It is all clay, clay,- now hard almost as rock, soon to be soft & poachy two or three feet deep. Wet the soil and it makes a mortar sufficiently plastic & consistent to lay brick with for chimneys. Oh how it sticks to boots & clothes & then when dry the dust clings also. If all "sacred" things cling as closely no one need go astray.

When we shall move or when we shall go is a mystery. We have received orders to hut for the winter, but the way this order is not carried out leads me to think that such is not to be our fate. There is a remote prospect that Col. Veazey will be Brigadier General of this Brigade in case we all remain together, in which event I shall be likely to command the Regiment. I do not want the place so long as I can serve with Col. V., but he and others say that I can do it & do it well. I do not take any stock in such talk, but I feel that in time I can discharge the duties of my present place as well as the best that I have seen. I like the ordinary duties much - they are to my last and accord with my habits of mind.

I eat well, sleep well and am toughening rapidly. My diarrhaea of a day or two since was occasioned by taking cold & a consequent stoppage of the bile. By the way I left at home 2 ounces of Opium that I had bought. Will you not get a little paper box at the jewellers crowd it in & mail it me. The postage will not be more than 5 or 6 stamps, & the article will be invaluable. It is my sheet anchor in such complaints.

As to Dr. Higginson's bill I do not want you to pay it. Mr. Brown probably sent him my bill & he returned this. Let it remain. That fifer must look to John Hunt for his pay. H. was Captain & directed me to go to him. I presume Mrs. H. will pay him. Don't you do it.

I think of you all and particularly of wife & children I need not say how frequently, and these thoughts afford me great pleasure. I would like to drop in & see you all dearly, and yet I am not at all anxious to go home. I feel as if I had a duty to do here and I mean to do it to the best of my ability. If our regiment does nothing to distinguish itself and aid in putting down the rebellion it shall not be my fault. I will do my duty & then my skirts will be clean.

Give my love to Mother and a kiss to each of our dear children. Tell them of their papa and say that if he could see them he would hug, kiss & tell them lots of stories. With renewed assurances of my love

I am fondly thine own

Charles -

Remember me to all neighbors & friends.

(No. 5)
Camp Vermont
Nov. 16 1862

Dear Wife

Your letter No. 4 was received Wednesday evening, and like all other missives from home was a source of great enjoyment. I am especially gratified in knowing that all the dear ones are well, hale and hearty. I trust that this winter both of the children will get such a start in vigorous, robust health that they will be able to weather the storm of diseases that usually afflict little ones.

The weather here to-night is cold and rough. The wind is in the N.E., and before morning rain is expected. I have only one tent, - most of the field officers in this brigade except those in this regiment - have two tents opening into each other. We are entitled to two each in quarters, but find it difficult to get them. My little stove is to-day on the front side of the tent, the funnel running out of the door as the direction of the wind forbids its "drawing" on the other. Yesterday morning about 4 o'clock I returned from the "Rounds" as Field Officer of the Day, and built up a fire. It burned briskly for a while so I went to bed, but in an hour I awoke nearly suffocated - all the smoke coming into the tent. I got up and drowned the fire in a hurry & then turned my stove about as above.

We have commenced drawing timber - logs & poles - to build our winter huts as per orders from Division head quarters. It looks as if we were to stay here all winter, but I hope looks are deceitful. Gen. Stoughton arrives Tuesday and assumes command of our Brigade. Capt. John S. Tyler of Co.

C, 2nd Vermont, is to be on his staff as Assistant General, and John Wheeler as Aid-de-Camp. Col. Veazey remarked that if Hampton is encamped here all winter with the little lone wanderer on his shoulders the belles, flirts and -- in Washington would find constant employment. The "galliant" Brigadier has a great reputation in the army as a woman's man. He is probably the handsomest Brigadier in the army, or at least would be called so by the girls.

To day after inspection - which commenced at 9, and lasted until one - the field officers dined by invitation with the Com. Serg^t. Charles Simonds. We had roast beef, sweet potatoes, onions, boiled rice, maple syrup, butter, cheese, coffee, ale and bread, salt pepper & Worcestershire sauce. There is no danger of starvation. In our mess our board has not been quite \$3.50 per week - we have four servants who eat with us & whose rations go in to the mess - & our mess chest & other purchases for fixtures, mess chest, cooking stoves &c. will amount to about \$12 each. We live well enough - although butter is 40 to 42¢ per pound & milk 10¢ per quart. We can buy sweet potatoes for \$2.50 per barrel.

Friday my sword, sash and belt arrived. The belt is a common regulation belt - the best for service - the sword & sash are both very nice. The letter from Gen. Davis forwarding them stated that he hoped to furnish me a pair of pistols from a similar source. All favors thankfully received.

My health continues good, except that I have a cold in my head and a slightly sore throat all the time. In using my voice three hours on battalion drill it gets quite husky. I can drill the battalion very well, for a new hand. I know the drill tolerably well but find it necessary to keep my wits about me to give the commands correctly, promptly & in proper succession. Col. Veazin (sic) & the other Colonels all say, as I am informed that I shall make a first rate officer - so I think I am doing as well as can be expected. I write this "stuff" to you as you will be gratified to believe that I am not making an ass of myself.

Not having moved for a week or more there is not much more of news that would interest you that I think of.

Speaking of furnace wood, there is some under the shed in the yard that you had better use. There will not be much drawn until sledding. Farmers do not bring it in on wheels. What is under the shed will prudently used last until nearly Christmas unless it is uncommonly cold.

I saw Herrick the Assignee of Hadley & told him concerning the bill for meat, & spoke about the arrangements I had made in my own mind of meeting it with certain debts due me & which would soon be available - one from Joseph Clark, & one from Bradley's Estate. I shall write him soon.

Give my love to all the household. I should like to drop in of an evening & see you all most dearly, but then I think that I could not return to my duties here with any sort of complacency after so doing, so I take it out in thinking of you all. Kiss our dear little ones for their absent papa, who thinks of them daily & hopes they are good children.

Your loving husband
Charles

(No. 6)
Camp Vermont, Fairfax
Co., Va.
Nov. 22d 1862

Dear Wife: It is now Saturday evening after 8 o'clock, and I take two hours time in talking to you, albeit it is through a medium much less satisfactory than I could employ were I seated by our cosy fireplace, with a baby on each knee. It does no good, however, to wish for a different state of things just now, so I will not dilate upon a scene that my imagination often, very often, vividly pictures.

My time is very much occupied with affairs of my regiment, in drills, discipline, barracks, food, hospital, &c, and all the available balance save writing an occasional letter to the Phoenix, you and a few friends is devoted to the study of tactics. I have been through the "school of the battalion," a part of the "school of the soldier," and all the "school of the guides," besides interlarding all with portions of the "school of the company." I have this evening just returned from a regular recitation of all the commissioned officers at the Colonel's headquarters, at which we closed the first book aforesaid. I design to keep ahead of the Major & line officers. After finishing the school of the company, it is proposed that we review the school of the battalion, I to hear recitations of the right wing and the major those of the left. I have drilled the battalion two afternoons and made it go tolerably well.

To-morrow/Sunday morning/ I go on picket again as the Field Officer of the Day. It is a hard day's work, and then to conclude with the "rounds" after 12 o'clock at night when it is pitch dark is not the most interesting performance in the world. But I have made up my mind to do all my duties cheerfully and to the best of my ability, which will not only give me reputation as an officer, but it makes what would otherwise often be irksome a pleasant task.

We have just had a rain that would do credit to an equinoctial. It rained almost all the time for four days and nights. In the night it rained the hardest and the wind blew the fiercest. My tent stove would not draw at all, so to keep the tent free from smoke I put out the fire and went to bed cold, wet, and cheerless. Everything inside as well as out was damp and disagreeable. Didn't I think of a good bed at home and almost wish I was in it? Since the rain it has been muddy, ohh! such mud. It sticks to everything. To cap all we were all ordered on Thursday to Fort Albany - five miles distant through Alexandria - to be reviewed by Gen. Silas Casey, Division commander. The mud was from three to eight inches deep, soft and as adhesive as salve, so that when it was not more than three inches deep it would so stick to boots as to come up and leave the ground free from it all around where the foot was placed. Well, we marched through this sort of stuff & in the rain all the while to Alexandria - about two miles - when we found sidewalks and pavements a very sensible relief. We went nearly a mile beyond Alexandria, when a mounted orderly from head-quarters met us and told us that the review was postponed on account of the weather. I wished our march

had also been postponed. But military operations have no regard for the weather. If I had been Gen. Casey I would have had the review let it rain pitchforks.

I am glad that you get along so well with the things at home. I knew you would just as soon as you had had a little experience. You will have a good supply of garden vegetables and pork. I think you had better have the rose bushes &c taken care of. By the way I have seen some beautiful trees here that I would like to send home if I could get the right size and they would bear our Northern climate - 1st is the arbor vitae (red cedar) which grows two, three to six times as large as ours, but the branches are as firm, thick, compact and well turned in outline as if trained & trimmed. Then some of them are all covered with small, bluish purple berries, rather smaller than blueberries. They are splendid trees & would become a lawn admirably. Then there is the box-wood - such as nibs (?) are made of - which grows as large as the largest lilac bushes, and has leaves, thicker than any tree we have, about the size of myrtle leaves but of a paler green; these leaves remain on all winter & in a snow drift would be surprisingly firm. Then there are several beautiful deciduous trees with magnificent great, straight, smooth trunks that set out a forest admirable. The red oak and chestnut are the only trees that I have seen here that grow as they do with us. Laurel is abundant but the wood is different and I suspect the flowers also are. It is of the root of this that so many fancy pipes and rings are carved. The flora of this country is vastly different from that of Vermont.

I am right glad to know that the children are so well: if they get strong, hearty and grow well they will be better able to weather the troubles of another summer. I trust Charlie will get strength out of his fatness. Tell him and Lizzie that papa would give a great deal to see them, hold them and kiss them: but when he comes home he will make up for lost time. Tell them also that papa sees lots of little "nig Dinahs" down here, some of whom are very good looking.

There is no immediate prospect of my having command of a regiment, for Col. Veazey is not likely to be promoted at present. Stoughton is to be our Brigadier General, which suits me as well as Col. V. Stoughton is an excellent tactician and will drill the Brigade firmly.

I do not know where to look for the 41st Mass. There are so many new Regiments near here that it is impossible to find any particular one. Our Division and Brigades are as yet only provisional. When we are definitely assigned we shall know more of our neighbors. The 2nd New Hampshire is within two or three miles of us I understand. If so I may possibly see something of some of our Cheshire County friends.

If we remain here, or are likely to be here long enough to render it advisable for me to get a leave of absence a day I shall go to Washington & get the photographs. I would not give a fig for them on my own account, but as you desire them you shall be gratified if possible, & I shall be pleased thereat.

I received the opium in good shape, took one pill of it and was cured thereby & with a little dieting of persistent four-days diarrhoea, & have since been well and smart. Opium is my sheet anchor in such cases.

I like your gossiping letters as you call them. They are newsy and exceedingly readable and good. All these little things from home are just what I want to hear. By the way I heard of Charles Gladding's sudden death.

My horse is doing finely, better than any other one out here. He is getting fat & is as hearty as Charlie. He is the best dispositioned horse I ever saw. His name is "Billy," & he knows when I call him.

To morrow on picket I shall go within 2 miles of Mt. Vernon. Most of our officers have been there, but I have no desire to go. Except to gratify you I shall not be absent from the Reg^t except on business. Kiss the darlings, & imagine you are getting several yourself from your

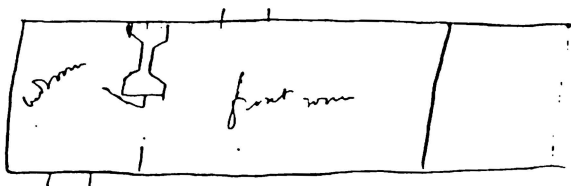
loving, devoted husband
Charles

(No. 7)
Camp Vermont Fairfax
Co. Va.
Nov. 28th 1862

Dear Wife: Your letters all to No.7 inclusive have been all duly received. In relation to the matter of which Mr. Fessenden spoke you advised him correctly. The advertising was to go to pay my taxes & insurance. I have had such an arrangement with him for several years.

My health is excellent, and I suffer less from diarrhaea than heretofore, although a ride of 30 to 40 miles a day on picket shakes me up. Now I have to do duty once in three or four days, as there are but two regiments of this Brigade in camp. Last Tuesday evening the Brigade was called upon for 3 Regiments to go to Bull Run at Union Mills, about 30 miles from here. They left about 9 o'clock in the evening at an hour's notice and the rain coming down abundantly. It was pitchy dark and unpleasant. Had not the 16th Regt been on picket at that time we should have been one of the Regiments to move. Whether we shall soon go, or stay here all winter, whether those gone will come back here or not are matters that we know nothing more about than you do.

There is not much of interest to you here. I can only tell you of myself. I am in my tent yet, but shall next week if we remain put me up a stockaded house 24 feet long by 10 wide and the walls 6 feet high. Logs are split and hewn on the inside from six inches to a foot or more in width. A trench is dug in the ground just the size the building is to be, about 18 inches deep & these palisades are stood up on an end faced in, close together and even at the top. The earth is then trod in and banked up on the outside. It will contain two rooms - a sleeping apartment with a board floor 10 by 9 and an ante room where I shall smoke, hear recitations of officers &c 15 by 10. I have procured old brick for a chimney & shall have a fire - place in each room. The floor will be something like this



The elevation like the enclosed. The floor of the front room & the hearths will be of the "sacred soil" smoothed down while wet and then dried. So you will see that I am making preparations to be comfortable as the circumstances of the case will admit. If you and the babies were here we could get along pretty well in doors but our outdoor conveniences would not be particularly desirable.

To morrow I go out on picket again, and as we establish new lines on account of the late heavy rains I shall be out most of the 24 hours. With my great coat and the vigorous exercise of horseback riding I shall not suffer with cold.

Speaking of riding I ride with great confidence now. I can jump an ordinary fence, or a ditch five or six feet wide without difficulty. You would laugh were you to see me galloping over the country, as the sight would be so novel a one for you to behold.

I was sorry to hear of Mother's sickness. At her time of life and the condition of her general health, I fear she may not ever recover her ordinary vigor. If you receive this at Westminster give my love to her, Sarah and the Doctor, and when you see her to our other mother also. Tell them all that I do not in the least regret having enlisted. On the other hand I feel daily more assured, if possible, that I am in the strict line of my duty.

What do you hear of Israel? He has gone back to Annapolis, but is he exchanged or likely to be and has he any indications of his future destination, whether with the 21st Mass Regt or otherwise?

Next time I will endeavor to write you something more interesting if possible, but I have this evening written a communication for *The Phoenix*, in which you will find sundry matters touching our troops, so I will not fill much space in their repetition.

I am my dear wife
devotedly Yours,

Charles Cummings

P.S. No.1.

Give my love in the form of a kiss to each of our little darlings and tell them that papa hopes that they are good children

Charles.

P.S. No.2.

I wrote my business signature above without thinking. I have to write my name so many times that it slips off mechanically - C.

P.S. No.3.

No more postscripts to this.

(No. 8)

Camp Vermont, Fairfax
Co., Va.

Dec 4th 1862

My Dear Wife

Your Nos 6 & 7 & 8 were duly received, both I believe since I have written you. I may have made a mistake in numbering my letters, but I have written once a week all the month of November. The delay in your receiving my letter, of which you speak arises from its not having been forwarded from Brattleboro, I think. I sent it to Alexandria by Qr. M. Henry, who said he mailed it.

I hope you had a pleasant Thanksgiving. I was sorry to hear of Mother's ill-health but hope from the tenor of your last that she is getting better. She has not much vigor of constitution left, and at her age any unusual sickness in her leads me to entertain serious apprehensions.

I am quite well as Capt Clarke will tell you on his return. I never looked or felt better, so far as health is concerned in my life. The Captain, E. Gorham, George Howe and Major Carpenter, Paymaster, dined with us last Sunday. That evening I went to Washington, going up from Alexandria on a steamboat - nine miles. I arrived in the city about six o'clock, and put up at Willard's, where C. & G. were stopping. The next day at 12 I went to the Capitol, saw our Members of Congress & Senators besides sundry other notables, saw Congress opened, heard the President's message part through & left. Among other things and the main occasion of my visit, I went to Brady's and sat for my photograph, of which I am to have a dozen cards-de-visite. I sat and only had the upper half of my body appear, without sword belt or sash. To have it full length would make the features so small, & the day was raining requiring a long sitting or standing to get an impression that I feared the picture would be worthless full length. I did not stop to see the plate nor get the cards as they could not be printed except in fair weather & work was so driving that several days would lapse before they were done. I shall probably have them by Saturday. This job is for your especial delectation. I shall send 10 of them home & you may dispose of them as you think proper. I propose also by and by to purchase a dozen or so of some of our generals say McClellan, Burnside, Smith, Brooks, Banks, Old Abe & wife &c & send you. I saw some very excellent ones in the city.

Tuesday & Wednesday I went into the woods & cut the timber for my winter quarters & drew it to camp for which purpose I detailed a dozen men. Next week I shall put the building up. It is to be 26 feet long inside by 10 wide, and 6 feet 4 inches high - divided into two apartments, one for my private quarters 10 feet by 10, the other about 10 by 16, a chimney between

with a fireplace to each. My bedroom will be floored, have a window, and if needs be I shall attach a private privy on the rear side. I can build a bed of boards, of the ordinary width, box style & fill it with straw which will be quite comfortable. I have two large blankets that I borrowed from the Quartermaster's supplies, a pair of nice ones that I bought some time since, costing \$10, the two white ones from home that do duty as sheets, my shawl, rubber blanket and great coat and cape, so you see that I sleep quite comfortable. The other apartment of my building will be devoted to recitations in the evening, and for smoking and company. It is very evident to my mind that we shall remain here two or three months.

Now what do you say to taking Lizzie and coming out here in about two weeks? Mrs. Blunt is here and Mrs. Veazey is coming out with some friends about the time I suggest. The Colonel wants you to come and it is needless to say that your presence here would give me infinite pleasure. I speak of Lizzie because I should like to have her here. She would delight the camp, and besides it would relieve Mother if she should come. I should just as well like to have Charlie too, but that would be impossible. I can make you both quite comfortable in my quarters, and the days are very pleasant here when it is not stormy. The nights are cold to be out in, but you would be quite warm inside. All that either of you would want to wear would be plain warm clothing, rubber boots, woolen night-caps, &c. We have enough to eat and that which is good enough. We can buy milk all that we need. If I arrange my building as I have suggested & shall do if you come you will experience no inconvenience from camp life for a few weeks. If you decide to come I will send you the necessary funds and directions, &c &c. I have not yet received any pay but I can get the money. We shall probably not be paid until January. By the way I had an order for \$26. in my wallet, on the State Treasurer, from a soldier in the 8th Vt. Regt. who had allotted \$10 per month. A fortnight since I sent it endorsed to Treasurer Page to send you the amount as soon as payable. I see by the last Phoenix that that Regiment has been paid up to September so that I suppose the amount will be speedily sent you. If it is not right he would probably have written me. He will send you, if he sends anything, a check which will be payable to your order.

Think the matter all over about coming out here and write me, bearing in mind the pleasure it would give me to have you come if you think it possible or advisable. I omitted to say that I received a letter from Gov. Holbrook last night in which he writes that in a few weeks he will visit Washington and our camp. Clark and Graham will also be out here again in two weeks or so. As Mrs. Veazey will go via Springfield from Boston you may find it preferable to come with the Governor. If you see him & conclude to come I will write him concerning the matter.

I did not receive any presentation letter with the sword &c. It was purchased and sent by Gen. Davis, but I see by the Montpelier papers that my reply was read in session in the House by Speaker Smith. You will probably see it copied into the next Phoenix.

To day is Vermont Thanksgiving. I had roast beef for dinner and turkey & chicken &c for supper. Doing well, eh? At 3 in the morning I start to visit

the pickets which job will take me until 7 in the morning. It is a cold ride at that cold time but the air is bracing. My great coat cape & mittens keep me comfortable.

You would hardly think it, but I wear nothing in the day time outside my vest but my thin flannel blouse made for last summer, but as yet it is warm enough generally. Occasionally when it is quite cool and I am riding but little I put on the cape of my great coat. I do think that unless I am very careless this climate will agree with me quite well. I have not lost a meal of victuals nor had a headache since I have been out here. Since my first considerable diarrhoea I have not suffered in that direction. The piles trouble me a little. I suspect riding horseback does not help that matter. My throat does not trouble me now except I drill the regiment all the afternoon, but that will in a great measure subside by constant practice of talking in the open air.

Politics is ignored in camp. I do not see a newspaper more than every other day. I carried the President's Message in my pocket from Monday afternoon at 3, when I bought an Extra containing it, until this afternoon when I first found time to read it. We do not know half as much as the N.Y. correspondents pretend to about the War, so we have no opinions about movements. Yet it is generally thought by our M C's that Burnside will be as inactive as McClellan. Fitzjohn Porter's case opens badly. Col. V. was in Washington today & he says that Morrill (M.C.) told him this afternoon that Gen. Grant was having to-day a big fight in the South West. The news was obtained at the War Department. We occasionally discuss the manner in which the War should be conducted, but that don't amount to much.

The fact is to run a regiment as we have been situated requires most of our time. The 13th 14th & 15th have been away ten days & the 12th & 16th have done all the picket duty, taking about all the able well men of each every 48 hours. Then there are but three field officers for Officers of the Day. I was detailed Sunday & again Wednesday but in the latter case the Major went for me as I was drawing lumber, so I went to day for my Thanksgiving. The 15th will be back tomorrow, & the others in a day or two, I hear, so that we shall have more drill & less picket. Our men are generally in their winter quarters and are quite comfortable. The Colonel & I look sharply after them as men in camp will not take care of themselves. We have not lost a man as yet, nor have we any dangerously sick, which the other regiments have lost several - the 15th eight or nine. Most of the difference is owing to the manifest superiority of our Colonel. He is acknowledged to be the best officer in the Brigade. He is an excellent man, kind hearted, of good principles, and I am greatly attached to him. I admire him. We get along together splendidly.

If you ever live to get through with this disconnected letter you may think yourself fortunate.

Please give my love to mother, & to the babies in a manner that they will best appreciate. Remember me kindly to all inquiring friends, & say that our Brattleboro boys are all well. I omitted to say that Jr. Simonds and Briggs

who waters the streets(?) were here last Sunday having come on with gov't horses.

I am my dear wife
Your loving husband
Charles

(No. 9)
Camp Vermont, Fairfax
Co. Va.
Nov(Dec?) 10th 1862

My Dear Wife,

Your No.9 of Dec 3d was received Saturday evening, and I was much, very much gratified with its perusal. This evening I am in the Colonel's old quarters. He has moved into his new home and I am building mine. I shall complete it before Sunday and then I shall be ready to receive company. Since I wrote I have changed the plan somewhat. The building is 25 feet long and 12 wide. It will be 6 ½ feet high at the eaves with two rooms as heretofore described. It will be exceedingly comfortable - almost too much for a soldier. The building runs east and west and the windows of each room will be on the south side so as to let in the sunlight. I do not propose to carpet the floor nor fresco the walls just yet. The whole cash expense to me will be about \$3.00 - for lock, hinges spikes & latches. The timber is confiscated and the labor besides what I do done by the men.

Gen. Stoughton arrived in camp last Sunday and assumed the command of the regiment. John Wheeler and John Curtis Tyler are not of the staff. Capt. John S. Tyler of Co. C, 2nd Vermont is to be chief of staff as Assistant Adjutant General provided he can get relieved of his command - which is probable. The General made his headquarters with the 16th until he got his ready in the "Mason" house near by. He likes the 16th & both the officers & men will fare better under him than under Col. Blunt. I am heartily glad of the change.

C. A. Miles of Brattleboro has just left my quarters. He arrived in camp to-day & has spent the evening with me. He will remain out here two or three weeks, with his head quarters at Gen. Stoughton's. He communicates nothing new except the scandal about W. C. Perry and Laura Atherton, his table girl for the past three years but not at present in his employ. Perry's family think his intimacy in that direction more than friendship will warrant. Very likely.

I do not know why that I said nothing to you about Israel's not having a furlough, except he communicated the matter to me only in answer to a direct question, and as I did not think it best to make the fact public I forgot all about mentioning it - as I sometimes do in relation to a matter communicated to me as a secret. In fact I do not know that I have

thought of it since, except for a moment when we were passing the guard at Brattleboro.

I am very well - never felt better or ate heartier in my life. I eschew turkey, chicken, sauce, &c, & confine myself to beef, pork, oysters when I can get them, bread potatoes, onions butter & cheese, with tea & coffee - not all at one meal of course. I mean my food shall be plain, well cooked & nutritious, but I will not encourage any fancy appetite. I have not drank a quart of liquor since I left Brattleboro - in fact only now and then I taste it - about the same as at home. I weigh 162 pounds, and my muscular strength seems almost twice as great as it used to. All who see me think I am uncommonly rugged. With the exception of one severe cold and a consequent diarrhoea about a month since I have not had an ache nor lost a meal of victuals. If you and the babies were here I do not think I should lack anything in the way of enjoying myself. I find the military quite as pleasant as I could wish, and my position sufficient for my present aspirations. I did not come out here expecting everything would be rose colored and lavendered, so I have no disappointment whatever. I think I correctly appreciated in advance at least all that I have met with, except perhaps everything is more agreeable than I could have hoped for.

I send you by this enclosure some photographs which I trust will meet your wishes. It is on your account wholly that they were taken and if they please you all my trouble in the matter will be more than repaid. I had 13 sent me. One I gave to Col. Veazey for his wife's album, Miles *took* one, one I have with me and the 10 remaining I forward. They are subject to your disposal. Please give one to my mother. If you give away any select the best - the darkest - for yourself.

Last Saturday I saw in camp at Col. Blunt's Mrs. John Hunt & Mrs. Hunt Burrows as well as Mrs. Blunt. They were all quite well and enjoying life well. Capt. H. Gen. D.W.C. Clarke now Executive Clerk U.S. Senate, and Capt. N. Tucker of Burlington were with them. Ras. Hunt is at Willard's in Washington at his old ways. J.J. Crandall is doing well as tailor to the 11th Regiment. Capt. R.W. Clarke is still in Washington, and rumor says that he goes to bed rather unsteady quite regularly. I suspect he is on the broad road from all I can hear. Like Crandall he has not calibre and strength of mind enough to know when, or rather to decide at the right time, to say *NO*. I am sorry that his appointment and the comparatively idle life he lead in consequence thereof should be thus perverted. He had better have taken the fields as I have done. I feel safe in believing that there cannot be sufficient inducements presented to my mind to lead me to drink to my injury as I believe or to the neglect of my duties. I take no credit for this or not much for I do not want it.

I get my washing done - after a fashion - by a family of negroes close by camp. It costs me about 62 cents per dozen, and without ironing. As soon as my clothes are returned by my servant I hang them up on a line across my tent over the stove where they remain until they are wanted to wear. In this way, they are thoroughly aired.

What do you think of coming here - either with or without Lizzie? Since my last letter two of the sick in our hospital have died both of typhoid fever. They were one from Dover & the other from Whitingham. Those who come from the high hill towns do not acclimate as well as those from the river and valley towns. The dampness in the night here is not unlike the fogs & at home.

Give my love to Mother & in the usual form to our dear children, and believe me always your

loving husband
Charles

(No. 10)
Head Quarters 2nd Vermont
Brigade
Fairfax Court House, Dec
14th 1862

My Dear Wife,

Just as I had my barracks nearly completed when I was proposing to pass a comfortable winter, and the next evening after I mailed my letter containing those photographs, to wit: on Thursday evening Dec. 12th our Brigade received orders to be prepared to march at two hours notice, and immediately thereafter came a circular ordering us to move precisely at 5 o'clock the next morning. Accordingly some tall swearing was indulged in rather freely - not because we were to change our camp for one nearer the enemy, but because we were to leave our comfortable winter quarters erected with so much labor for others to enjoy (a new brigade having been ordered in to occupy them) and move to where the same labor would have to be gone through with again.

In common with others I spent the evening after a hard day's work on my house in packing up my traps. That completed I retired to rest at about 11 o'clock P.M. to awake at 2 in the morning. A hasty breakfast at 3, and I was on my horse at 10 minutes to 5 and in a very short time we were in motion as follows: 15th 16th 12th 13th 14th. I did not turn around to give one lingering look at my anticipated abode of domestic felicity, but as soon as I was fairly out of sight of the place I told the Colonel that I was glad that we were forever away from that clay pit.

We marched about four miles before sunrise. Two miles and we came on to the Alexandria and Fairfax Turnpike which is quite level and almost straight. We made a halt, every one or two hours, of a few minutes to give the men an opportunity to breathe. At 3 in the afternoon we arrived at Fairfax Court House, distant from Alexandria from 15 to 19 miles. Half a mile further in the woods we were directed to one camping ground in the skirts of a forest where camp fires were still burning. It appeared that the 11th Army Corps under Gen. Sigel had left, the rear guard but the day before, for the

advance, or towards the Rappahannock, and that our Brigade with the 2nd Conn. Battery attached were to occupy the place. We had not eaten our supper when an order came for the 16th Reg^t to report on the Fairfax and Centerville turnpike at 8 o'clock A.M., in readiness to march three miles beyond that place - 10 miles in all from here - to do picket duty for four days. The picket there requires but part of a regiment on at a time, so the great difficulty is in the march. The picket that this regiment relieved Saturday morning lost two men Friday night by guerillas, so that there will be some excitement in picketing out there. Soon after this order of removal, and after I had retired I received an order to "report with the least possible delay" at Gen. Stoughton's head quarters for instruction as Provost Marshal at Fairfax Court House to which I was appointed. But I didn't go until morning when bright and early I was on hand, received my instructions, took peaceable possession of a fine brick building, two stories high, erected as an office for the County and Probate Clerks, cleaned it out and put things into condition for work. My predecessor under Gen. Sigel had occupied a small wooden building full of filth and smelling like an Irishman's shanty only worse, but I was bound to have as good quarters as could be found in the place. I have the whole building, two rooms besides entrance and stairs 20 feet or so square - and 10 feet high with two windows on each side of both rooms and a fine open fireplace at one end of each. I have a guard detailed daily of 50 men each besides a proper proportion of officers, which will soon be exchanged for a permanent guard.

My duties are to attend to all matters connected with the granting of passes - persons cannot travel in this country without passes - preserve order and quiet in the place, arrest all drunken persons whether citizens, officers or soldiers, shut up grog shops, and attend to municipal duties generally - besides granting safe guards arresting "secesh" & the like. I have the county jail at my command, where I put the men at night & in the morning they are "brought up" for examination & punishment if necessary.

I do not fancy such business half so well as picketing but I make it a rule to obey orders without murmuring(?) & without hesitation so I have gone at it with a will. How long I shall remain here, or how long the regiments will be stationed here I have no more means of knowing than heretofore. But I do not see how I can make arrangements any more for your coming. There is no decent place but what is full. Nearly all the "secesh" have left and their houses are used for hospital purposes - there being about 700 sick of Gen. Sigel's Corps here, including two cases of small pox.

Fairfax Court House is situated in a beautiful country and was once a beautiful place for this part of Virginia, but like all other places that have been the theatres of war and alternately occupied by our troops and the enemy, it is the picture of desolation. The constant encampment of soldiers has deprived the country of all fences, caused buildings to be torn down, mutilated and destroyed. The Court House proper is smaller than our town hall, and it looks as that would were the windows broken out & boarded up and all the inside ripped out and the walls defaced. It is used now for the storage of our commissary stores. The building I am in is the only one

that is comparatively unscathed. The "Green" containing the C.H. Clerks building P.O. and other smaller buildings, where the ablest men of the Old Dominion has been trodden up, encamped upon and besmeared until a New England Farmer's out door hog yard would be clean and sweet in comparison. It is filth exemplified. It is probably worse now than ever before, as Sigel's Corps have just left with all their German & Dutch nastiness left behind. I shall clean up somewhat tomorrow having detailed men for that purpose.

This place was two years since the center of a thriving trade probably two-thirds as much as that of Brattleboro, but it is all gone, and sutler's holes fill the places once occupied by prominent men. There are not more than a hundred houses in the place & half of these are used as hospitals for the use of the army. I do not think that more than ten or twelve prominent families remain. Gen. Stoughton succeeds Gen. Sigel in having his head quarters at one of these. The buildings owned by F.F.V's and the ground trod and the Court House rendered classic by the eloquence of her great men is rendered a ruin and a waste, and this is only a fair sample of what has befallen Old Virginia. No fire, even if it should burn every house in our village of Brattleboro could be half as desolating to the place as war has been to this part of Virginia. Houses, cattle, fences and inhabitants nearly all gone - lands desolate running up to weeds and briars, and no encouragement for the future. The people here look dispirited, and ruined, as in fact they are. I will stop for words fail to convey any adequate idea of the picture one sees on every hand. Desolation is the word that most nearly conveys the idea, but that is hardly sufficiently emphatic.

In this building I occupy are kept the records of the county court, Probate court and the U.S. District Court. Until recently the will of George Washington was on file here but that and some of the more important papers have been removed for safety to Alexandria. But the office is full of old papers going back two centuries or more. I use for my pillow one of these old volumes. There is probably scarcely any other place in Virginia around which more or pleasanter historical associations cluster and linger, than about this same old place, but its fragrance is now flagrantly odious.

My health continues good, and I should be in capital condition could I get enough to eat at reasonable rates. I am away from my mess, and so I am compelled to pick up my living as best I can. I had nothing to eat from Friday morning at 3 o'clock until Saturday night except some hard bread that I brought in my haversack. To day I got a meal of poor beef steak, potatoes & coffee at half a dollar, so I eked out the remainder of the day on "hard tack" & cold water. I am thankful that my appetite is good and that I am not over particular as to my food provided that it is clean.

There commenced a great battle at Fredericksburg yesterday & is continued to day, with what results I do not hear, but trust that it is favorable to our side. It is about time to hear of Union Victories here in Virginia if we ever expect to bring this war to a close.

Gen. Slocum's Army Corps 20 to 30,000 strong passed through here yesterday and to-day en route from Harper's Ferry to Fredericksburg & the seat of war. Why they did not move in season to have a hand in this fight is more than I know. His rear guard was attacked by guerillas and one man killed and another wounded. They were around evidently attempting to cut off the train as is their usual custom.

Banks is supposed to be near Richmond, but as I have not seen but one newspaper in a week I do not keep very well posted in army movements.

When you direct your letters do it the same as now except after "Washington D.C." add "at Fairfax C.H. Va." - for I am precisely at that place.

Give my love to mother, kiss the dear little children for their absent papa and rest assured in the affectionate love and constant remembrance of

Your husband
Charles

Camp near Fairfax Station, Va.
March 17, 1863

My Dearest Wife,

Your very acceptable shipment duly arrived this afternoon and its contents will be very grateful if they are sour, sharp and high seasoned. I have sent to Abner White his two towels, 2 pairs of socks and box of peppers. The cheese pot was broken but so retained its form that the cheese was safe. The sauce can leaked at the top a little, probably from being bottom upward, and the apples were considerably bruised. But considering the rough road it had to travel it came in good condition. All I can do now is to thank you, and when the paymaster comes, whom we expect this month, I will no longer be unremitting in my thankfulness.

I see by the newspapers that the recent capture of Gen. Stoughton is the all absorbing topic of conversation and criticism, and that it provokes all sorts of comment. I was pained to see copied from the *New York Times* a gross charge of dalliance with a woman of easy virtue - a Miss Ford - and this assigned as a reason for his remaining away from the immediate command and his consequent capture - made against him. The family of Mr. Ford was one of the most respectable in the place, and the reputation of Miss Ford - whom I knew but was barely acquainted with, was as fair and unspotted as that of any lady in Virginia. Although the General made his quarters at that house about a month, he could have seen but little of her as he boarded in his mess and his apartments were taken care of by an old negro wench. His mother and sister occupied the same apartments but took their meals with him at his quarters in a house a square distant.

Gen. S. is a handsome man, is young and fond of female society, but he never had the reputation nor does any officer in this Brigade believe him capable of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentlemen." His military standing and reputation is however much injured, and his promotion to a Brigadier will never receive the sanction of the Senate. The President has withdrawn his name for that office. Gen. Stannard will probably be assigned to this Brigade. As I wrote you last evening I do not have much news. I received a letter from Henry to day expressing his pleasure that my name was not among the list of officers captured at Fairfax Court House.

Love to all -
Your loving husband
Charles

Camp near Fairfax Station, Va.
March 21st 1863

My Dear Wife,

Yours of the 13th No. 34, was received in due season. I am very sorry to hear of your ill-health resulting from your cold. You need exercise great care. Pneumonia is the bane of a mild winter at home as it is here in the acclimation. But although my cold was so severe it did not affect the air-cells of my lungs to any appreciable extent. I could then inhale a full breath as well as now. The inflammation was confined to the larger air passages. Your constitutional tendency to a weakness in that organ makes it indispensable(sic) that you attend to medication in season. I hope to hear, however, in your next letter that you are better.

S.C. Covey in company B received news through a telegraph dispatch from the Governor to Col Veazey, last night, that his wife and three children were sick - the former not expected to live. We got him a furlough for fifteen days and he started for Washington this morning to get it approved by Gen's Casey & Heintzelman, &, if successful, will leave Washington and arrive at Brattleboro Monday by the morning train from Springfield. If tomorrow were not Sunday he would get through from Washington to-morrow night - 23 hours being the regular time between the two cities. He will call upon you before he comes back. He used to peddle meat for Hadley and cut up a pig for us a year or two since. He was detailed as cook for Gen. Stoughton down to the time of the raid, & has since been on similar duty at Col. Blunt's quarters.

Gen. Stoughton has arrived safely at Richmond and is lodged with the other prisoners in the Libby prison. I suspect he will find it uncomfortable quarters in that lousy, filthy den, as his habits and taste for personal neatness and cleanliness are of no ordinary order.

I regret that there should be so much bitterness manifested towards him by the city press and such petty spite and small, low sort of malignity at home. The fact is the General has been petted by overweening friends like Senators Fort & John Z. Hale until he was more or less spoilt. He was a great favorite with Lizzie Hale, a Washington Belle & daughter of the Senator. He is a ladies man, that is he is passionately fond of the society of pretty and chatty young ladies. He was a good tactician, and disciplinarian and did much in these respects for the Brigade. But he is far short of being such a genuine soldier as Gen Phelps. However he is dead to advancement. He was commissioned by the President on the 5th of November as Brigadier General. That appointment held good until his nomination, sent in when Congress met, was acted upon definitely by the Senate & if they did not act upon it until adjournment. They did not finally act upon it, so it expired March 4th. But the new Senate was convened the same day for executive business & the nomination was renewed by the President. If there had been no action by the Senate it would have held good until the adjournment of the next Congress whenever that should be. If rejected by the Senate that ended the matter. The Senate did not act upon it, his friends delaying to press it for fear of defeat. After his capture it was withdrawn for it would have then been defeated sure. He received his renewed commission the day before his capture. Such is the regular course of all Presidential appointments made in vacation.

I enclose you slips one giving an account of the General's arrival at Richmond & the other a copy of Miss Antonia J. Ford's commission as Major from Gen. Stuart. Miss Ford was always regarded as a respectable woman & member of a highly respectable family. They were all secesh, her brother being in the rebel cavalry. Stuart gave a number of such commissions. He offered one to Belle Jackson, where I boarded, but she would not accept it, because Stuart kept her, and her sister and husband, when the two last were on their way through his lines a year ago last February to go to a minister's at Warrenton to get married, over night as prisoners at his quarters. Stuart, the Rebel General of Cavalry is only thirty and is fond of just such frolics.

I do not think the Jacksons had the least suspicion of the raid, and I am sure they would have done all in their power to protect me from capture. Mr. & Mrs. J. are people who mind their own business and treat every soldier who behaves himself well courteously and kindly on whichever side he may be. Belle is secesh like all the hot blooded Southern girls, but all she can do is to talk and that more severely than she means, such as Hannah does.

I expect Gen. Stannard will be assigned to this Brigade, at least it is understood. He is a plain, practical man with an abundance of good sense, and withal a good soldier. If he comes he will live in his tent like the others of his command, & if he is taken prisoner it will only be after a fight & with the rest of the brigade.

I have got my rifle pits nearly completed having made about 3000 yards. Next week I have two or three redoubts to build for artillery and then the defences for this Station will be sufficient for any probable contingency.

The weather this month is quite stormy. We are having a constant succession of snow storms, small in amount but keeping the ground muddy and nasty. I suspect that in Vermont you will find nearly "six weeks sledding in March" this year.

The pickles are nice and quite acceptable. Such condiments are infinitely preferable to all the pies, cakes, &c that can be sent.

If you can get Mr. Ellis to trim the grape vines soon it will be a good thing. It should be done soon or not at all, for if delayed they will bleed injuriously.

I am in the best of health, & hope that this will find you fully restored.

Give my love to mother and the children & believe me

Your loving husband
Charles

Editor's Note:

Charles Cummings was mustered out of the Union Army August 10, 1863. He re-enlisted as a lieutenant colonel the following February, was wounded May 6th, and killed in action September 30, 1864.**

***Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers* - 1861-66, Montpelier, Vt. Watchman Publishing Co., 1892.

The Importance of Sheep in Fairfax County History

by

Carol Drake Friedman

From the mid-18th century until well into the twentieth century, sheep, and the wool they produced, were economically important in Fairfax County. Local fulling mills and the importation and breeding of fine woolled sheep supported the manufacture of woolen cloth, one of the earliest industrial activities in the county. When excessive tobacco production finally depleted the soil, sheep filled the agricultural gap, subsisting on the most meager of pasturage, and, by adding nutrients to the soil, enriched it for subsequent crops of wheat and corn. Although sheep were ultimately raised for meat rather than wool, they remained an integral part of the agricultural scene until enveloped by the succeeding dominance of dairy farming in the early 1900's.

Early History and Laws Regarding Sheep

It all began at Jamestown in 1607. In the first exploration along the James River, which began a few days after the settlers arrived, natural resources which could be exploited by the new colony were diligently sought out and recorded. The first report, which was sent to England with Captain Newport on June first of that year, notes the discovery of "fullers earth in diverse places."¹ The discovery of fuller's earth was significant, for it was an essential ingredient in the economical manufacture of woolen cloth. The active chemical properties in the greenish, absorbent clay removed most of the "suint," a mixture of natural lanolin greases and dried perspiration, as well as stains from raw wool.

The process was accomplished by thoroughly washing the woven fabric in a mixture of hot water, soap and fuller's earth. After several rinses, it was put into a beating trough with hot water, again containing fuller's earth, where it was thumped and pounded for hours. This caused the wool fibers to adhere together, giving a "full" or a firm structure to the fabric. After several rinses in cool water it was stretched into shape and dried outdoors. The potential for wool manufacture was thus recognized at the very start of Virginia's history, and we can be confident that sheep were imported as soon as the struggling colony became firmly established.

By October 1666, there were enough sheep to include them in a law requiring landowners to enclose their cleared land with fences at least 4 ½ feet in height. Sheep, cattle, and hogs roamed freely; the burden of the law was on landowners to protect their gardens and crops from trespassing animals. Landowners who did not maintain adequate fences were forbidden to injure or kill any sheep that gained entry and caused damage, and sheepowners were allowed to claim recompense for losses so sustained.²

Sheep had become an important agricultural resource by the mid-eighteenth century, when another problem arose. A significant number of Virginia counties, Fairfax among them, were claiming large losses of sheep killed by dogs. Part of the blame was placed on slaves who reportedly kept dogs and allowed them to kill sheep. The General Assembly acted quickly, making it illegal for slaves to have dogs with them at any time – except if they were handling hounds and hunting dogs for the master’s “diversion.”³

In the law’s second clause, one can perceive the extent of the problem and how it was affecting community relations. It reads: “And whereas dogs frequently ramble from home, and destroy great numbers of sheep, and some persons are so unneighborly as to refuse their being killed; Be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon due proof made to him, of any dogs killing sheep, to order such dog to be destroyed forthwith.”⁴

Laws to protect sheep were enacted to support the manufacture of wool. Wool, often woven in combination with flax, provided the primary material used in clothing. As wool producers, sheep were considered too important to slaughter for meat and were rarely included in the diet. Virginians traditionally manifested a preference for bacon and ham.

To fill an obviously growing need, the General Assembly enacted legislation in 1751 to promote the erection of fulling mills.⁵ Harnessing water power to mechanize fulling was a big step forward. Although woolen cloth had been fulled by stamping upon it with one’s feet or by beating it with sticks, the process was both time consuming and exhausting and often produced an inferior product.

The fulling mill utilized falling-stocks equipped with heavy wooden feet or hammers at the ends. They rose and fell, pounding the cloth with a rotating motion that ensured complete and uniform processing.⁶ During the last decade of the eighteenth century wool was increasingly fulled at mills, and as carding machines became available, the difficult task of hand-carding wool was also performed at local mills.

Although fulling mills were devoted exclusively to processing wool, neighborhood gristmills often were equipped to “full” woolen cloth on a smaller scale. Grain or corn was ground on one floor of the mill and fulling was carried out on another.⁷

As the land became more populated, the old practice of fencing out animals rather than confining them to certain areas created problems. Grazing sheep often strayed far from home pastures, getting lost or joining the flocks of other farmers. Although every owner marked his animals with special identification, sorting them out was a chore. Needless to say, accusations of rustling were probably made whether true or not.

The solution came in 1779. Detailed regulations under which strays were to be handled were put into law.⁸ The laws were heavily weighted in the sheepowner's favor, and probably served as an impetus for erecting fences which would protect and confine the animals.

The farmer who took up an estray on his land was required to notify the Justice of the Peace, have the animal appraised by three disinterested parties, have the valuation along with a physical description of the animal entered in a book kept by the clerk of the county court, and pay ten pounds of tobacco to the clerk for an estray certificate – all within 20 days. The clerk was then obliged to post a copy of the certificate on the courthouse door on two separate court-days, for which he was to be paid another ten pounds of tobacco. If the valuation of the animal was under 20 shillings and the owner did not appear, the taker-up was allowed to keep it. In effect, a person who took up an estray that was not particularly valuable went through a lot of trouble and paid twenty pounds of tobacco to boot.

The procedure for strays whose value exceeded 20 shillings demanded the taker-up to further advertise the certificate in the *Virginia Gazette* three times, also informing readers of the location of the estray. The printer of the *Gazette* was to be paid four shillings for each estray advertised. Animal owners were given a full year after advertising to claim the estray, and five years to reclaim the valuation money upon presenting proof of ownership.

The only escape-hatch was a provision which covered instances of blameless estray death or escape after being taken up and advertised. No claims could then be advanced by the animal owner, nor could the taker-up be made answerable in any way. We can only surmise that many animals may have just disappeared – or ended up on someone's dinner table.

It is surprising that anyone bothered to take up strays considering the time, effort, and expense required to meet the law, yet the *Fairfax County Record of Strays* is filled with the names of those who did. Postings of estray sheep appear regularly. A typical entry reads: "Taken up by John West living on Wolfrun 31 May 1787, seven sheep Viz. two Ewes, one Ram & four lambs. The mark of the Ram is a hole and overkeel in the right Ear and Swallowfork in the left with short horns, one of the ewes is marked with a half spade in the right Ear and a cross and underkeel in the left; the others are unmarked, six white and one black. Valued and appraised to two pounds and thirteen Shillings Current Money."⁹

A Reliance on Sheep

In 1791, Alexander Hamilton, then Secretary of the Treasury, prepared a report on manufactures in Virginia. The data, which he obtained through surveys taken by various officials across the state, gives us valuable information about Virginia's industrial situation a decade after independence. Although some agricultural and mining information is given, the report is dominated by statistics and information on the manufacture of cloth and clothing.¹⁰

Cloth was made from wool, linen, cotton, and hemp, and was produced in varying amounts in every region of Virginia. Using these fibers, or a combination of them, such as linsey-woolsey, an average of 200 yards of cloth a year was produced by each family. Cloth was manufactured primarily by white females or by slave females under the supervision of white mistresses. Overwhelmingly, cloth was manufactured at home to provide clothing, stockings, blankets, and table linens for the family and clothing for slave families.

According to the survey, a majority of families raised ample flocks of sheep. The largest flocks were reported in the "upper areas," described as beyond the mountains, where, it was stated, "...for supplying the article of wool this part of Virginia is so favorable that large droves of sheep go from it, to the lower Town Markets." Fulling mills that made good cloth were also reported there.¹¹ Loudoun County was probably included in this area as the description is appropriate.

During the early 1700's, Quaker, Scots-Irish, and German-Pennsylvania farmers, who had migrated south through the Catoctins and into the Shenandoah Valley, began to drift eastward, settling in Loudoun and western Fairfax Counties. These self-sufficient farmers relied on diversified crops, planted little tobacco, and always kept substantial flocks of sheep. Sheep were considered important, not only for their wool, but as a means of soil enrichment.¹²

The migration and subsequent mix of cultures influenced farming methods in western Fairfax County, and that influence was reinforced when the area of Fairfax County west of Difficult Run became part of Loudoun County in 1757. Loudoun agricultural practices, many of which were of Quaker origin, prevailed beyond 1798, when the land was returned to Fairfax County. Therefore, we should view western Fairfax County's agricultural history as more like that of Loudoun County than of eastern Fairfax County.¹³

The closing decades of the 18th century were a time of agricultural transition in Fairfax. The soil in much of Fairfax County was unproductive, depleted by years of repetitive tobacco cropping and poor farming practices. Many of the younger, more ambitious residents were leaving, seeking new land beyond Virginia, in Kentucky and Ohio. Wheat was becoming a more

important crop, where the soil would support it, but restoring seriously impoverished fields required more than a switch of crops.

County farmers were not unaware of the productive farms in traditionally light tobacco growing areas of western Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, where Quaker farmers touted the use of gypsum¹⁴ and sheep as soil restorers. Evidence that gypsum was widely used by non-Quaker Fairfax farmers during this period is lacking. However, as we have seen, local farmers had always raised sheep to provide wool for family use, although their flocks were seldom extensive. A logical move would have been to enlarge sheep holdings and to pasture them in worn and useless fields until the soil could support other crops. In the interim, increased wool production could bring in sorely needed income. Did Fairfax farmers follow this logic? County records are too scanty to draw firm conclusions; however, they do suggest a slight increase in sheep holdings.¹⁵

The Heyday of Sheep Breeding

International tensions preceding the War of 1812 and a concomitant Federalist movement for national economic independence combined to produce the “Merino sheep craze” of the early 1800’s. The catalyst for this phenomenon was George Washington Parke Custis, step-grandson of George Washington and a firm supporter of Federalist views.

Custis launched a unique campaign against dependence on foreign goods and the stagnant state of agricultural enterprise by promoting the development of a superior breed of domestic sheep. “America’s sheep” he said, were “lamentably deficient.”¹⁶ On March 8, 1805 he published a notice in the *Alexandria Gazette* offering a prize of forty dollars for the finest ram lamb that could be produced by area farmers, and he initiated an annual “sheep shearing” festival at his Arlington estate, where gentlemen farmers were invited to exhibit their improved breeds. Ladies also attended the event, competing for the premiums that could be won for the best home-produced cloth, blankets, stockings, and yarn.¹⁷

One of the effects of this drive for improved breeds was the increased importation of long-wooled sheep for cross-breeding with domestic stock. Custis favored Persians, but Spanish Merino sheep, noted for their fine fleece, were extolled in every quarter as being the quintessence of sheep. Although Merinos were expensive, Fairfax County farmers rushed to embrace them, creating a demand that blossomed into a near mania.¹⁸

Beginning in 1809, and for a few years thereafter, James Hewitt Hooe, a wealthy landowner and businessman, imported Merinos into Alexandria from Lisbon, Portugal.¹⁹ Arriving ships docked at Broom Lawn, Hooe’s farm at the southern terminus of Washington Street, near the confluence of Hunting Creek and the Potomac River. Here the sheep were pastured until sale day.

Alex^a 11 October 1810 -

This day I entered the Sheep & Ship (Citizen
Capt Dodge at the Custom House, p^offer - " 9
I rec^d from on board the Ship

1 Bell weather
48 Ewes marked ^{WI}
A ^{WI}
34 ditto marked — P
1 ditto remained on board too sick to remove &
I agreed to give the mate 10th if she sh^d get well
84 Ewes with the Bell Weather
9 Rams marked — ^{WI}
P
5 ditto marked ^{WI}
A
4 ditto marked BK

18 Rams, as above, of which the 4 marked
BK are claimed by the Capt. as his own

102 Sheep of w^{ch} 101 are rec^d on shore

The report of the Capt is, that he lost 8 Sheep ^{WI}
on the passage, namely 5 Ewes & 2 Rams. 4 of the
Ewes. The Rams were both ^{WI} Rams, but one of the
Ewes was the private property of the Capt.
The ^{WI} Sheep were shipped by Wm Jarvis, Esq^r

63 Ewes
12 Rams
1 Bell weather

76 for his own ant.
25 for ant of Capt & owners

A page from James H. Hooe's account book itemizes a shipment of Marino sheep which has arrived in Alexandria. Note the markings used to identify sheep. Photo by Carol D. Friedman.

George Mason of Gunston Hall bought several sheep at one of the sales held on the grounds of Broom Lawn, and in 1810, two sheep of his choice were presented to President James Madison as a gift.²⁰ Madison graciously selected two ewes, perhaps to keep the White House lawn in tidy shape; Hooe was evidently aware of the value of Presidential publicity.

In 1810, Hooe sold imported Merino rams for \$250 each, ewes for \$150 each, and bell wethers (a castrated ram that leads the flock) for \$30 each. It was a price only wealthy farmers could afford, but expenses were high too. The agent in Lisbon had to be paid, and passage costs included charges for food and care of the animals while on board. Import duties had to be paid on arrival, and there were advertising and sale expenses; Hooe advertised in Richmond, Baltimore and New York papers as well as in the *Alexandria Gazette*.²¹ In his account book, he even listed the cost of \$11.43 for feeding and guarding the animals after they landed at Broom Lawn.

Losses could be significant. When Captain Eldrige docked the brig *Zeriah* at Alexandria on January 4, 1811, 150 of the 200 Merino sheep taken aboard at Lisbon had died during the passage.²² Overall, Hooe lost about 10% of his sheep during passage, and quite a few died after coming ashore. Occasionally, sheep would be too sick to remove from the ship, as happened when the ship *Citizen* arrived on October 11, 1810.²³ One can only shudder at the thought of a sea voyage of eight or more weeks in a small ship with 200 sick sheep aboard.

Hooe owned several estates and farms where he cross-bred Merino sheep with various other breeds. In 1813, his flocks at Pageland and Burgundy included Merino, Douglas, Escorial, and Columbus breeds, as well as what he termed "common sheep." His largest flock in 1823 (376) was quartered on land that bordered Cub Run near Centreville, the former William Lane farm.²⁴ The location was conveniently accessible to the fulling mill which John Dye had erected on Popes Head Creek in 1809.²⁵

For several years Hooe had woolen cloth fullled at Dye's Mill.²⁶ Dye also installed a carding machine at the mill and employed three men to help in the operation. In 1820 he processed 3,000 pounds of wool.²⁷ Evidently, business was good, as he was still processing wool at this mill in 1830.²⁸ After Dye's death around 1831-2, his widow, Nancy, continued to operate the mill.²⁹

Locations of fulling mills in Fairfax County have been difficult to identify. Often the process was carried out in mills that primarily ground grain and are thus described as gristmills rather than fulling mills. In fact, manufacturing censuses taken in the county through 1850 contain little information about any kind of milling. Owners of manufactories, suspicious of taxation, were reluctant to answer questions about their businesses, and most outright refused to respond. It seems likely, however, that Dye's was not the only

fulling mill in the county, for in his recollections of farm life in Loudoun county during the early 1800's, John J. Janney states: "A fulling mill in every community was a necessity. Cleaning and carding wool by hand was a terrible job." And that "There was a small woolen factory in nearly every neighborhood."³⁰

There is some evidence that one of Fox's Mills on Fox Mill Road (now Waples Mill Road) at Difficult Run may have been a fulling or woolen mill,³¹ and there was a well-known wool and cotton factory at Occoquan that served many Fairfax County residents.³² Beginning in 1815, Edgar Patterson owned and operated a wool factory on the lower side of Pimmit Run at its junction with the Potomac River. The location was considered desirable because the turnpike leading from "Leesburg and the western country passes by the door."³³ As has been previously mentioned, those areas were a major source of wool.

Patterson's wool factory was a two story stone building, 110 feet in length, which included a fulling mill with two pairs of stocks, a stone dye house, and a bleach house. It was well equipped with several carding machines, billes and jennies for spinning, and had 12 wide looms and several narrow looms for weaving woolen cloth. Blankets manufactured at Patterson's were reputed to be of superior quality and were purchased by many Washington homemakers.³⁴

Estate inventories during the 1820's and 1830's consistently list sheep, sheep shears, woolen wheels (for spinning yarn), looms, and occasionally "wool in the fleece." At the estate sale of Dr. William Gunnell on October 16, 1837, the commissioner noted the auction sale of 127 pounds of raw wool of five different qualities, ranging in value from no. 2 wool at 11 cents a pound, to no. 7 wool at 20 cents a pound, and 6-3/4 rolls [sic] of wool at 38 cents a pound.³⁵

Domestic sheep, although they may have had a little Merino in their ancestry, were selling at reasonable prices. Charles Turley's 47 sheep were appraised at two dollars each in 1824.³⁶ And in 1831, William Moss's flock of 93 ewes and lambs brought \$188, slightly more than two dollars each.³⁷ The price may not be as low as supposed, however, as Moss's carriage and harnesses together sold for only \$35.00.

Yankees and Sheep, an Agricultural Duo

Fairfax County's population decreased more than 30% between 1800 and 1840 as western emigration accelerated.³⁸ Large tracts of land were untilled, weed strewn, and up for sale at bargain prices. In 1840, fifty-six families from Dutchess County, New York settled in Fairfax County, confident that they could make the land productive again. One of them, Jacob Haight, a Quaker, bought the Sully farm near Chantilly.

Quoted at length in 1845 for an article in the *Albany Cultivator*, an agricultural publication, Haight was highly critical of Virginia farmers, noting their waste of land and energy. He explained the Quaker/Yankee method of reclaiming farmlands in detail, advocating the use of crop rotation, deep plowing, clover, plaster (gypsum), and the pasturing of sheep.

To illustrate his point regarding sheep, he told a story: "A man bought a farm which was in poor condition, and put upon it 250 sheep. The first year he found it barely sufficient to support them; the second year, he kept all their increase and found the flock was in better condition; the third year he found them still increasing in number and quality, and his land was so much improved that he began to cultivate a part of it in grain. So he continued for many years, increasing his flock, and cultivating part of it in grain, until his flock was greatly increased, and his fields became so productive that a considerable portion of them could be devoted to agriculture."³⁹

Haight believed sheep could make the difference in Fairfax County, as they had in Loudoun County, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and Dutchess County, New York. He urged farmers to raise them for soil revitalization, and he recommended them for clearing away the briars and garlic that had overgrown many fields.⁴⁰

Sheep were not new at Sully. Francis Lightfoot Lee, former owner of Sully, had a flock of 200 pure-bred and mixed Merinos there in 1816, but the farm had fallen on hard times by the time Haight bought it at public sale in 1842.⁴¹ Sully thrived under Haight's ownership. Undoubtedly, many local farmers followed his advice on the wisdom of keeping sheep, for sheep populations, especially in western Fairfax County, increased significantly during the late 1840's.

The flow of Yankee farmers was not only directed to Fairfax County. There was a steady influx of northerners in other areas of Virginia as well. Many brought their sheep along, as did H.N. Dox of New York State. In August 1849, Dox drove his flock of 800 American Saxony sheep from western New York to Amherst, Virginia, where he was cordially welcomed by the local folks. The trip was accomplished in 42 days with only seven losses – and these were sold along the way because of injuries. The local newspaper, the *Lynchburg Virginian*, hailed it as an important event, expressing the hope that others would follow.⁴²

The period between 1845 and 1855 might be called the high-tide of sheep raising in Fairfax County. Of the 729 farmers listed in the 1850 agricultural census, 34 kept flocks of sheep (45.8%). There were a total of 8,736 sheep, and wool production was high – 16,302 pounds. There were many flocks of a hundred or more sheep, and they were held by southerners and northerners alike; Anna Maria Fitzhugh had a flock of 300 sheep at Ravensworth, the largest in the county. The Turbervilles at Leeton had a flock of 230; Lewis

Machen at Walney had 150; Elizabeth Carter kept 135 near Centreville, and Thomas Ayre had a flock of 100 near Chantilly.

By 1860, only 200 of the now 944 farmers raised sheep (21.2%). Excepting Josiah Look, who had a flock of 900 sheep near Woodlawn Plantation, the remaining large flocks were all in western Fairfax County. Had the sheep improved the soil enough for them to be no longer needed? In many cases that may have been true; crops of wheat, rye, and corn now filled the fields. At Walney, Lewis Machen, who held a flock of 150 sheep in 1850, had only 30 in 1860, but had added a crop of 8000 pounds of Tobacco.⁴³

Although there were 6,093 sheep on Fairfax farms, an increase in milk cows from 2,965 in 1850 to 3,709 in 1860 forecast a coming change.⁴⁴ Butter production for local sale was on the upswing. The budding dairying era was about to unfold when the Civil War exploded across Fairfax County on a warm July day in 1861.

The Final Chapter

The war wreaked havoc on Fairfax farms. Fences and barns disappeared for firewood, crops and animals were confiscated to feed both armies, and residents were reduced to poverty. After four long years of war most of Fairfax County was a wasteland. Centreville, occupied for almost the entire war by alternating Union and Confederate troops, was completely devastated. Recovery was painful and difficult but eventually successful.

Another wave of northerners settled in Fairfax in the years after the war ended, swelling the population from the pre-war count of 11,834 to an 1870 figure of 12,952. Overall, milk cows were gaining in popularity in the county, but the sheep population had fallen drastically to 2,434 animals, 47.0% of which were in the two western districts of Dranesville and Centreville.

Agricultural recovery in Centreville was slow. Clear cutting of trees during the war, and the subsequent erosion of the land created serious ecological damage. Farmers were having a hard time. Those who had sheep were especially hard pressed. An old complaint, first heard in 1752, reared its head again – stray dogs were killing sheep! After neglecting to tackle the problem in 1871-2, the Board of Supervisors finally acted in 1873. A system of compensation was set up whereby owners had to register their dogs and contribute 50 cents to a “dog fund,” from which farmers were paid for their losses. Money from the fund also paid for bounties which were given for dogs without collars, as well as for fox scalps and hawk and owl heads.⁴⁵ Business was brisk, and the fund was occasionally hard pressed for sufficient money to pay claims.

Although the sheep population had doubled and wool yields reached a new high in 1880, Fairfax farmers were increasingly directing their attention

SHEEP IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pop.</u>	<u>Farmers</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Lbs. of wool</u>	<u>Milch cows</u>
1850	10,682	729	8736	16,302	2965
1860	11,834	944	6093	14,391	3709
1870	12,952	1296	2434	4,316	3907
1880	16,025	1609	4628	16,912	5466

1850 Total Farmers - 729 Farmers keeping sheep - 334 45.8%
 1860 Total Farmers - 944 Farmers keeping sheep - 200 21.2%

1870 FAIRFAX COUNTY - Population 12,952 Farmers 1,296									
<u>District</u>	<u>Farmers</u>	<u>Co.%</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Co.%</u>	<u>Lbs. wool</u>	<u>Co.%</u>	<u>Milch cows</u>	<u>Co.%</u>	
Dranesville	226	17.4	671	25.0	1687	39.0	804	20.5	
Centreville	214	16.5	581	22.0	1577	36.5	588	15.5	
Mt. Vernon	186	14.3	425	15.8	.0	.0	648	16.5	
Providence	316	24.3	356	13.2	745	17.2	944	24.1	
Lee	180	13.8	271	10.0	45	1.0	451	11.5	
Falls Church	174	13.4	110	4.0	262	6.0	472	12.0	

1880 FAIRFAX COUNTY - Population 16,025 Farmers 1,609									
<u>District</u>	<u>Farmers</u>	<u>Co.%</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Co.%</u>	<u>Lbs. wool</u>	<u>Co.%</u>	<u>Milch cows</u>	<u>Co.%</u>	
Centreville	169	10.5	1652	35.7	4367	25.8	736	13.5	
Dranesville	326	20.2	1041	22.5	4379	25.9	1082	19.8	
Mt. Vernon	241	14.9	976	21.1	4624	27.3	991	18.1	
Providence	374	23.2	566	12.2	1749	10.3	1187	21.7	
Lee	284	17.6	300	6.5	1231	7.3	694	12.7	
Falls Church	215	13.3	91	1.9	562	3.3	776	14.2	

SAMPLE - 1880 CENTREVILLE DISTRICT - 35.7% of county sheep population

Farmers - 169	
Farmers raising sheep - 47 = 27.8%	
Sheep on hand June 1, 1880	1652
Lambs dropped spring 1880	827
Sheep purchased in 1879	55
Sheep sold living 1879	632
Sheep slaughtered 1879	26
Died of disease 1879	105 - 6.4%
Died of weather stress 1879	44 - 2.7%
Killed by dogs 1879	29 - 1.8%
losses = 11.0%	
Sheared for fleece, spring 1880	996
Pounds of wool	4367 - 25.8% of county total
Milch cows	736 - 13.5% of county total

Data from Agricultural Censuses of 1850-1860-1870-1880
 Compiled by Carol Drake Friedman

to milk cows and the production of butter. They planted crops of wheat, corn, rye, and oats; orchards bloomed and hay fields prospered. Oxen were replaced by draft horses, and stock included hogs, cattle, sheep, and poultry. Farm families strove for self-sufficiency with hope for some profit.

With the use of deeper cutting plows and new fertilizers sheep were no longer needed for soil restoration. And, as woollen goods became commercially plentiful and less expensive, only large flocks of sheep made wool production profitable. Sheep did not disappear from the Fairfax scene,

instead, they became a marketable product in themselves – as mutton, lamb, and leather.

In 1880, farmers in the Centreville and Dranesville Districts held over 60% of the county's sheep. The farmer's avenue to market was a traditional one, the Little River Turnpike. The turnpike, completed in 1812, was constructed over an earlier road of undetermined vintage and from the earliest days was the path by which farmers from Loudoun and western Fairfax brought their produce to the markets at Alexandria and Washington. In the early days, the toll was 12 cents for every score of sheep that passed through a tollgate, and tollgates were spaced about every ten miles.⁴⁶

In the first decades of the 1900's, sheep and cattle drives along the road were still a common sight. Often, farmers hired professional drovers to drive their sheep or cattle to the railroad cattle pens for shipment, or to the abattoir which was located at the present site of the Pentagon in Arlington.⁴⁷

In those days there were virtually no paved roads and no traffic in Fairfax County. In nice weather, driving a flock of sheep demanded little beyond attentiveness to the idiosyncrasies of the breed. In 1910, a sixteen year old boy from Pender named Alvin Birch took on his first job – to assist a professional drover who was driving a herd of cattle to Bailey's Crossroads and a flock of 94 sheep to the abattoir. Alvin was to shepherd the sheep from Pender to Annandale, where he would wait for the drover to return from delivering the cattle. The drover would then drive the sheep on to the abattoir, and Alvin could return home.

It was a warm and sunny day, and the drive was going well. When they reached Annandale, the sheep scampered to a wooded area along the road to lay down in the shade. While the drover went on to Bailey's Crossroads with the cattle, Alvin had a chance to count the sheep. There should have been 94, but there were only 92!

The sheep were resting contentedly, not anxious to resume the trek, but Alvin finally rounded them up and headed back along the road looking for the missing two. When he reached the point where the beltway now crosses Little River Turnpike, he met another drover with a flock of sheep. The drover, on hearing Alvin's plight, came up with the missing sheep which he had found resting in a shaded honeysuckle patch beside the road.⁴⁸

These bucolic scenes of sheep and shepherds slowly faded as the dairy era asserted its prominence in twentieth-century Fairfax County. During their long alliance, sheep had faithfully and successfully performed the various and unique functions required of them by county farmers. Whether providing wool for the manufacture of clothing and blankets, serving as a symbol of American self-reliance, improving the soil of exhausted fields, or by supplying the county's dinner table with meat, sheep were an important cultural and economic factor in Fairfax County's history.

Notes

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37. Fairfax Co. Will Book S-1, pg. 7
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⁴⁷. Payne, Reminiscences of Barcroft's History, *Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 1, no. 3, pg. 58. Reprinted from the *Arlington Daily Sun*, April 15, 1955.

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“Charming Serenity:”

Selected Papers of Phebe Sweet Haight.¹

by

Estella K. Bryans-Munson

Introduction

According to Patrick Reed, the history of late nineteenth century Fairfax County, Virginia has been sadly neglected. He attributes this neglect to the “uneventful” nature of the period 1870-1900 but concludes that “the era’s established rural and emerging village patterns of life reveal not only a charming serenity, but also some subtle hints of new directions the county would take after the turn of the century.”²

The letters of Phebe Sweet Haight clearly support Reed’s observations. At the same time, the letters are of an even greater historical importance because they seem to encapsulate, within the letters of one family, many major themes of nineteenth century United States history. Specific events discussed within these documents are not part of main-line history; many of the events are, indeed, personal in nature. It is hoped, however, that these documents will add to our understanding of an important transitional period in the history of northern Virginia.

In order to place Phebe Haight’s letters in context, a brief overview of mid-century population movements is required. The middle of the nineteenth century was a period of great flux in United States history. Sweeping demographic changes were occurring, principally through the agency of immigration and migration. The largest movement of people within the United States during this period encompassed the extension of the western frontier. Equally important were many smaller migrations that were of regional rather than national importance. One such migration brought Jacob and Amy Haight and their youngest son, Alexander, to Fairfax County, Virginia in 1842.

The Hights were part of a southward movement of Quaker families who were leaving New York, principally from the Dutchess County region, in search of something new. Jacob Haight was searching for a mild climate and land. Both of these he found at Sully, one of the Lee plantations which had passed into the hands of another Dutchess county native, William Swartwout, in 1839.³ Jacob and Amy Haight counted among their new neighbors fifty-six other families from Dutchess County.⁴ Left

behind in New York were the two older Haight children. Charles Haight, a physician, resided in Poughkeepsie; daughter Maria, wife of businessman James Barlow, resided in New York City. The Barlows relocated to Sully in 1846. Robert Gamble writes:

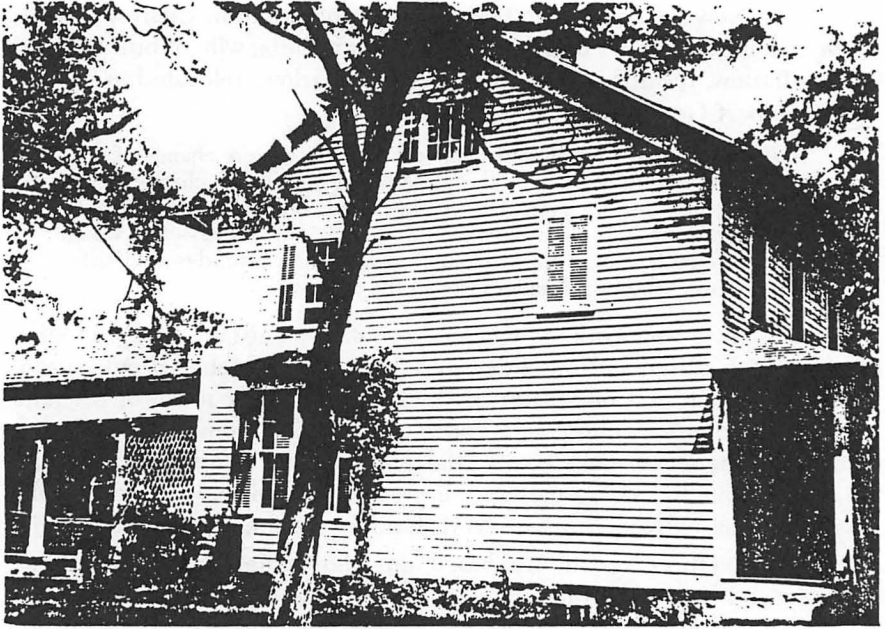
“Haight’s purchase of Sully represented more than a mere change of title. It was a timely indication of the agricultural and social change which was beginning in the area...it was the influx of such men as Jacob Haight—northern-born, self-reliant, unaccustomed to slavery—that would most profoundly affect the economy and even the attitudes of Fairfax County during the two decades prior to the civil war.”⁵

Settlers from New York brought a new vitality to Fairfax County, a region where much of the soil was exhausted from years of tobacco cultivation. According to at least one historian “by the early 1840s, much of the land in Fairfax County was no longer under cultivation.”⁶ County residents left Fairfax in search of more fertile land, especially in Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri, thus becoming part of the great westward movement.⁷ Unlike many Fairfax natives, the New York farmers were not bound up in the trap of plantation agriculture based on labor-intensive crops such as tobacco and cotton. Rather, they favored a mixed agriculture based on crop diversification and extensive use of fertilizers such as lime and guano. Thus, land which native Virginians abandoned was given new life through techniques espoused by the new settlers.⁸

Although the Hights were highly successful in their new home, they maintained close ties with friends and family in Dutchess County. Indeed, when Alexander Haight married Phebe Sweet, on 8 January 1845, the wedding was in a Dutchess County Friends meetinghouse.⁹ Forty years later, their son, Henry, would frequently travel to New York to be with his many relatives and friends, one of whom, Emma Jane Young, he eventually married.

Following their marriage, Alexander and Phebe Haight returned to Sully, where Alexander helped his father with operations on the farm. In 1851, construction was completed on a new house, Little Sully, located just north of the Little River Turnpike. This was to be the home of Alexander and Phebe Haight for the remainder of their lives.¹⁰

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the women of Sully assumed a position of great importance. Because the Hights had come to Fairfax from New York, they were suspected of being Union sympathizers behind Confederate lines.¹¹ Thus, when the men of the family were forced to flee to Alexandria and Washington in the face of the advancing Confederate army, it fell to Amy Haight, Phebe Haight, and Maria Barlow to carry on the farming operations at Sully and Little Sully. The tension and uncertainty of the times took their toll. On 18 June 1863, Amy Haight died, leaving only Phebe and Maria to care for the place. With the removal of Maria Barlow to



Little Sully, built in 1851 by Alexander Haight, stood just east of the main house at Sully near Chantilly, Virginia. Little Sully was destroyed by arson in 1869. Photo ca. 1903 (Haight Family Papers, George Mason University).

a rented home in Alexandria, Phebe was left alone to defend the home and land that had been her father-in-law's pride. This was too much for husband Alexander, who decided to rent Little Sully rather than worry constantly about Phebe's safety. From late 1863 to 1865 Lysander Wrenn and family occupied Little Sully as tenants.¹²

Little is known about Phebe Haight's early life. The daughter of a Dutchess county farmer, she attended school in Philadelphia. Her role in the Civil War has already been mentioned. As the mother of four children and a farmer's wife, she must have been quite busy. Her work load increased following her husband's death in 1880. The later years of Phebe Haight's life are well documented through a series of letters in the Haight Family Papers at the Fenwick Library at George Mason University.

The chief value of these documents is that they shed much light on day to day living in northern Virginia for a period of history which has been neglected by historians. Too often the period between reconstruction and World War I has been glossed over for one reason or another. However, this is precisely the period when Fairfax County residents began to move away from the traditional agricultural economy that had been the mainstay of existence in Virginia for over three hundred years. In addition, tremendous sociological changes, such as the assimilation of non-whites into mainstream American culture, were beginning to occur. The acceptance, rejection and

adaptation to new circumstances of the common farmer can be glimpsed through the writings of Phebe Haight and her children. In addition to illuminating our understanding of life in Northern Virginia during the latter part of the nineteenth century, the Haight letters also reveal the degree to which the family, though reduced in numbers through the death of its male head, continued to exercise control (or lack thereof) over its individual members and functioned as a viable economic unit in the face of tremendous hardships. Finally, the letters demonstrate the extent to which nineteenth century reform movements permeated middle class culture in Northern Virginia. The fact that Phebe Haight functioned as the head of the household is significant. The impact of educational and religious reform, women's suffrage, and prohibition underlie many of Phebe Haight's letters.

The letters that have been selected for this article fall into two series. The earlier letters were written in 1883 and 1884 by Henry C. Haight to his mother while Henry was on a trip to visit relatives in upstate New York. Could this be the trip that resulted in his marriage? Henry's reports on his social activities are second only to those about Little Sully as compared to various farms operated by kin in New York. Written only a few years after his father's death, Henry's letters discuss the management of Little Sully and describe a highly successful family enterprise. The second series of letters, mostly written by Phebe Haight to her son George A. Haight, were composed between 1888-1890. Some of the documents in the second series are redundant. I included all the letters from the period 1888-1890 to show that despite the distance between Chantilly, Virginia and Blacksburg, Virginia (over 150 miles), family members remained in almost constant communication with one another. This both insured the continuation of the farm as a viable, though shrinking, economic enterprise and reaffirmed the position of the family as the primary social unit. Two earlier documents, a rental assessment made following Alexander Haight's death and a rental agreement between Phebe Haight and her children, both dated in 1881, have been included to provide a foundation upon which to place the later correspondence. These two documents reveal the formal business relationship that existed between the Haight siblings and their mother. Three brief notes to George Haight from Henry Haight are examples of the numerous notes sent accompanying money, a commodity which George eagerly consumed during his student days. Finally, one letter, also from the 1888-1890 period, by Charles Murray to George Haight, helps to illustrate the change from agriculture to industry which was just starting in Fairfax County during the late nineteenth Century.

The different tone of the two series of letters is probably related to financial difficulties encountered by the Haights during the 1880's. According to land tax records, the farm was fairly stable until 1889, at which point the division of Alexander Haight's estate was finally recognized in the record. From 1880

to 1885, the family owned 417 acres of land. Then, in 1886, Henry and his brother Stephen Haight purchased a mill from their cousin Jacob Barlow. From 1886 to 1888, the family is listed for the 417 acres of Little Sully plus the one acre mill lot. With the estate division, the size of the farm was decreased by about twenty-four percent, as Margaret Haight Lee received $98 \frac{9}{10}$ acres in the division. It is unclear from the existing records whether or not Margaret's brothers continued to farm her property after the first year in which she controlled her portion of the estate, and my assumption is that they did not. However, three sections of the estate division, Phebe's 90 acre dower tract, George's $66 \frac{1}{2}$ acres, and Henry's $87 \frac{1}{4}$ acres, remained in production.

The discrepancy between the total acreage of Little Sully owned by family members in 1889, $342 \frac{3}{4}$ acres, and the amount of land owned at the time of Alexander Haight's death, 417 acres, can be accounted for through a land sale. Apparently the Hights, like many other farmers, were cash poor. Court records indicate that in 1886 and 1888 they were unable to pay their taxes. Thus, a suit was brought against them and, as a result, the Hights were forced to auction off parts of their farm. An item in the *Fairfax Herald* of February 1887 announced the sale.¹³ The land was purchased by Y.N. Yates, a prominent local attorney and speculator in Fairfax and Loudoun County lands, and by O.E. Hine.¹⁴ A second sale of land followed in November of 1891.¹⁵

Other records also indicate trouble on the home front. For example, from 1881 to 1887, the Hights owned between six and eight "horses, mules, asses, and jennets" and from twenty-eight to forty-nine cattle. In 1888, they had only three of the former and nineteen of the latter.

Finally, a more serious problem, in the eyes of family members, may have been the loss of labor provided by brother Stephen Haight. In the early 1880's, Stephen was running Little Sully while Henry was traveling. By 1889, his mother noted with great anger that Stephen had left the farm. An explanation is provided by an item from the *Fairfax Herald* of 13 November 1891, where under the heading "local news" it was noted that "A marriage license was issued in Washington last week to Stephen S. Haight, white, formerly of this county, now at Loudoun, and Henrietta Lucas, colored. They had previously attempted to get married in Baltimore, but were threatened with prosecution. Haight is said to have been very much frightened and pleaded ignorance of any intentional wrong doing."¹⁶ It is evident from the tone taken by his mother in her letters that Stephen was not considered a part of the family after his departure. This hypothesis is further enforced by statements of Stephen Haight in later legal cases involving the Hights in Fairfax. He stated that he had moved to the District of Columbia and that their affairs were not his business.¹⁷

Editorial Note

The documents in this edition have been transcribed literally. Original spelling, capitalization, and punctuation have been retained with one exception: the double “s” has been expanded. Interlineated and superscripted matter has been brought to the text line and indicated in the annotation. Struck words or letters appear in the text in angled brackets. Conjectural matter and notation of missing or illegible matter appear in the text in square brackets.

Documents are presented in chronological order. Undated material is placed within the collection based largely on internal evidence. In many instances, the year was not included in the date on the document itself, but was obtained from one or more postmarks on envelopes attached to the documents. Years taken from postmarks are placed in square brackets on the dateline.

The first series of letters is not annotated; however, the second series is. In general, notes are employed to identify people and places. The notes for each letter or document immediately follow after the text for each item. In this article individuals are identified only on their initial appearance. Because many individuals mentioned in the document were not prominent persons, identification has proved to be an extremely difficult task. The first footnote for each document indicates document type and location within the Haight Family Papers. All the documents in this article are autographed letters, signed (ALS). Each series is preceded by a list of its contents indicating the author, recipient, date of letter and location within the Haight Family Papers. Collection location indicates the box, file within a box, and location within a file (i.e., 2.8/1: the document is the first letter in the eighth folder in box 2). (The Haight Family Papers have not been organized by the archivists at George Mason University; rather, the documents are arranged as when received from Alexander L. Haight.) All documents contained in this article are located in the Special Collections and Archives of Fenwick Library at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.¹

Series One—Henry Haight to Phebe Haight

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. 27 November 1883 (2.6/11) | 10. 19 January 1884 (2.6/19) |
| 2. 30 November 1883 (2.6/14) | 11. 23 January 1884 (2.6/6) |
| 3. 4 December 1883 (2.7/19) | 12. 29 January 1884 (2.6/2) |
| 4. 7 December 1883 (2.7/11) | 13. 1 February 1884 (2.6/1) |
| 5. 13 December 1883 (2.7/12) | 14. 9 February 1884 (2.7/9) |
| 6. 15 December 1883 (2.8/13) | 15. 18 February 1884 (2.7/22) |
| 7. 26 December 1883 (2.7/18) | 16. 18 February 1884 (2.7/15) |
| 8. 31 December 1883 (2.6/10) | 17. 29 February 1884 (2.7/8) |
| 9. 8 January 1884 (2.7/4) | |

1. Washington, Nov 27th 1883.

Dear Mother

You see by this that I am not off to Baltimore by this time as I expected. Now I will give you the reason for this delay. Mr. Beckham gave me that letter of introduction as he said he would and then told me to take it to John S. Barbour the democrat congressman here and get him to endorse it. He said he would be sure to do it because he is a personal friend of Mr. Beckham's. So I went to his residence last night but he had gone to Richmond and was expected back tonight, and if he comes I will see him at 9 o'clock tomorrow and get his endorsement to Beckham's letter which will be a great help as he is a railroad man as well as congressman, then I will start for Baltimore as soon as I can after. Don't say anything about my getting Barbour's influence, because it might cause talk by being a republican, but Beckham said he was sure that would make no difference as Barbour would endorse any writing of his. I am at Garwoods, they are all well, and so am I.

Your affectionate Son Henry

2. Greenville, [New York?] Nov 30th [18]83.

Mother

Here I am at Simpsons. I met him on the cars yesterday coming out here from New York. I knew him at once though he did not know me. I ate my Thanksgiving dinner there yesterday And a good one it was too. In the afternoon he took me over to New York to show me some of the sights. The first thing we did was to take the elevated and go way out to the most northern limits of the city. Then we got off and walked about 2 blocks to the celebrated Harlem Lane, where the rich men of the place go to exercise their trotters. I saw so many fine horses and carriages that there seemed to have been no end of them. The most of them were of English make and heavy enough for farm wagons though there were some American makes and very light, to those the trotters were hitched. Then we got on the railroad again and went to Fifth Avenue and got off and walked down for a ways and saw some of the fine mansions Vanderbilts and Mrs Stewarts among the rest. Now we are going over the Brooklyn bridge so I must stop. All well.

Your affectionate Son Henry

3. Greenville, [New York?] Dec 4th [1883]

Mother

I have been to see Judge F. and he has a friend a General Burnett who has prominent position on the Pulman line and he has looked for him some time but has not found him yet. I was to see the Judge yesterday and today but he did not find him though he had his boy out looking when I left this morning. I am going again tomorrow to see him and if he has found the General (which will be very good influence) I will go at once to Phila. and then go up to Poughkeepsie. Wolsey Grigg and his wife stayed here last

night but they left for New York this morning from thence they expect to go to Newberg to their home. They were glad to here from Va and asked about nearly everyone that I know or ever heard of. I will enclose that check of B.W. Clark's as I could do nothing for it. I have gained some in weight- I guess the salt air is good for me. I went on the Stock Exchange again yesterday, it is an exciting place sure. They are so noisey that one in the gallery where the spectators sit cant understand any thing they say. I have not much news today so I will close.

Your Affectionate Son
H.C. Haight

[Attached envelope postmarked "New York Dec 5 11 AM 83"]

4. Poughkeepsie [New York] Dec 7 [18]83

Mother.

Well. I am this far on my journey. I arrived here last night about 7 o'clock. they all knew me at once. I will go up to Uncle George's soon but just when I don't know as they are all anxious for me to stay here. Robert told me that a letter came for me at the Hollow some days ago, but I have not been up there yet and so dont know who it was from. I have not been to Phila. yet about that railroad business as the Judge had another man to see who would be influential and he will send me word at the Hollow as soon as he sees him. Every one here is as well as ever. Mrs. Haight is very fat- and one of Richard's girls is as fat as that Lukens girl from Accotink. She is out of all proportion she is so fat. Hellen is just the same as ever as good natured as ever. If you write within the next three or four days direct in Roberts care. If later send to the Hollow. I will ask Uncle George to send the letter down soon as it may be of importance. Now I will close.

Your Affectionate Son Henry

Tell Steve that Robert sells his all wool horse blankets at \$8,00 per *pair*.

5. [Poughkeepsie, N.Y.] Dec 13 1883

Mother

I have just received your letter, the first one you wrote. It came to the Hollow and Uncle G. sent it down here. I have been here nearly a week and have not been up to the Hollow yet. I dont suppose Uncle G. will like it my not coming there sooner, but there is to be a church fair here in the place and Alida is very much interested in it and wanted me to stay very much and I have been helping them, so I have staid. What do you think, Alida, Rhoda, and Sallie [have] have joined the church and the Baptist church to. The old ironside kind. They were all dipped clear under the water. I suppose you have received my letters before this so I have not much to tell. Aunt Lizzie was down and spent some time here about two weeks ago. She and Uncle G. are both well. Aunt Elizabeth is quite well I

am told. Charlie Overacker was married a short time ago. I am going up to the Hollow this week then I will write again. I will [lett] let you know what to do with those notes when I write I think there had better be some signatures to them myself. All well no sign of chicken pox.

Yours Henry.

[Written on letterhead from "Elias Titus & Sons," Poughkeepsie, New York]

6. Washington [Hollow, N.Y.] Dec 15, [18]83.

Mother

I received your letter yesterday. Now dont be afraid of my taking the chickenpox, because if I do I will keep close to the fire as soon as I commence to feel it, then there will be no danger. I am at Uncle's you see, arrived here yesterday from Ham's, came from Pokeepsie with John. Uncle is quite well, but Aunt Lizzie is growing feeble I think. But she is in her usual health at present. I stopped to see Aunt Elizabeth a few days ago, and it seems to me as though she is stronger than she was seven years ago when I saw her last. Helen Lossing and her oldest daughter were here for several hours yesterday. They were both quite well. Eddie is at home now, but he is looking for a place on a merchant vessel. I expect to go up there the later part of next week. Uncle G. has two of the finest colts I ever saw. The oldest one Betty he has commenced to bit. He had the harness on it yesterday when I came. He has a track just north of the barn where he stands in the middle of it with a long rope tied to the colts bit and trots her around the track. She can go quite fast I believe. The other is more valuable I think, that is it cost \$100. to get so you can tell Steve about what he will hold it at though I have never said any thing about buying it to him.

Aunt Lizzie has very good help in the house. So that she doesnt get up until breakfast is ready. Mrs. Ham I think looks better that she did when I went away, though Milton is very feeble. I dont think he will live a great while. He has given the management of the farm entirely up to John who makes a very steady man. I saw Eugene and Mamie, and Sallie and her husband the other day. I was at Dr. Haight's the other day. He is very weak indeed though Aunt Jane looks and seems about the same. They enquired about Aunt...very much. Haviland is in the west where he spends all his winters. Now dont be afraid of my running about and spending all my money because if I only get \$1.00 per bushell for my wheat, Beckham owes me \$265.00 and I about \$30. of what I [dre] drew when I left. So dont worry about me. I will take care of it to the best of my ability. I expect to hear from Judge F. in about a week. He told me if I could not get the conductorship he help me all he could to get a position there. I have not told anyone about it here yet, but will tell Uncle G. before long. Well I guess I have told all the news so I will close. All as well as usual, I am

Your Affectionate Son Henry.

7. Washington Hollow Dec. 26 [1883]

“Mother”

I received your letter yesterday. Tell Steve that I will send those blankets the next time that I go to the factory which will be before long. It has been quite cold for the last week or more with plenty of sleighing, and last Saturday it was very cold I thought but on Sunday morning the thermometer was 6 below Zero and it was 4 below at noon on that and didnt get any warmer until about 10 o clock that when it moderated and has been some warmer since

David Barnes oldest child Susie Mrs. Allen was buried on last Saturday. Brights disease of the kidneys was what killed her I believe. There was a very large funeral despite the cold day. She left one child about two years old. George Ham is at home for the Holidays. He is a large boy though he is no taller than our George, but he is some heavier I should think. I guess from what I hear that Celia is really going to be married this time.

I suppose the darkies in Va hold Christmas this year the same as usual. Uncle Georgs man and woman went off yesterday and was to have been back that night but they have not gotten back yet. I dont know when they are coming. But I wish they would hurry up as they have the horse and sleigh. I was at Millbrook the other day and met Ruben Haight who used to live opposite here. He inquired for you. Uncle George sold a fat sow a few days ago which weighed 945 lbs dressed, quite a sow that. The butcher who bought her said she was the largest sow ever killed in Millbrook.

I have not seen anything of Uncle Alonzo's people yet but must go there before long. I have not been on the Ridge yet but intended going last week but I did not know how the roads would be up there so I did not go, but will as soon as the track gets beaten from this last fall of snow. I spent yesterday at Milton Ham's had my Christmas dinner there. I guess I have told all the news and now wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year I will close,

Yours Affectionately Henry.

[Attached envelope postmarked on reverse “Washington, D.c. transit Dec 28 12:30 PM 1183”]

8. Washington Hollow Dec 31 [1883]

“Mother”

Your letter written Christmas [...] eve came to hand Saturday while I was at Lagrange. I went Friday and came back last night. It has been very cold here, but it turned warm and melted all the snow so that the sleighing is about played out. I sent Steve's blankets last Saturday. Hope he has gotten them by this time though will come too late for that cold snap but will be ready for the next.

I took dinner Christmas with John Ham. The dinner was good but nothing to brag] brag of: (this is hard ink surely)

We are all invited to a New Year dinner at Uncle Elias' old place tomorrow but I hardly think anyone will go but me, as Uncle G. is busy

with the taxes and Aunt L. thinks it too cold for her. But I wouldn't miss it for a considerable. I would like very much to go to Celia's wedding but of course that is out of the question for me. Why dont you go? She would like to have you I know, and the trip would do you good. I am sorry to hear that Steve has no help yet but Arthur but if he stirs around some I think he will be likely to find some. I think John is making a mistake in leaving and he will find it out so before long. Tell Steve that Aunt L. wants him to have his picture taken and send one to her. I have not been anywhere yet owing to the stormy weather. Uncle G. drove his oldest colt Betty the other day. It is a beautiful animal. How is my colt doing? Tell George that George Ham is some heavier than him but no taller. Eddie Lossing is very short not more than five feet and six inches if that [hig] high. It worries his mother too who was very anxious for him to be large like the Sweets. But Eddie is very muscular though. I sent some papers to you the other day. Suppose you have them by this time. I hope it will snow again soon, because Uncle G. has a nice swell body suiter and good robe and blankets and all. Then it is warmer riding in a sleigh than a wagon. He has a good wagon too if he would only take care of his things and keep them looking decent. But he dont and I dont like to dabble in the cold water in the winter. But it is a good wagon, cost \$360 when new and had only been run a short time when he got it. He paid \$150 for a second hand wagon so you must know it is a good one. But it wont be long if he dont take any better care of it than he has done.

Well I'll close now. All well

From your Affectionate Son
Henry

9. Washington Hollow Jan 8. [18]84.

"Mother"

I just got hold of you[r?] letter today but it had been here some time, but I just got here myself. I went down to Lagrange to spend New Years. There was a great many there all belonging to the family though. Aunt Elizabeth was out. She looked just the same as she has for 50 years so Uncle G. says. It rained very hard the next day but she went home in but did not take cold. I went to Phila. the next day after New Years and put in my application. The man that Judge F. spoke of could do nothing for me, I saw the Judge as I went through N.Y. The man that I gave my application to talked very offish at first but when I gave him Beckham's letter signed by J.S. Barbour he cooled down a considerable, anyway so that he could talk to me. At first he said he could not entertain anymore applications but he took mine and my [reference] letter of recommendation and [asked] took my address so he could correspond with me. I dont know what it will amount to I am sure but If I dont hear from him in a reasonable length of time I am going to write to him and kind of stir him up a little. There was also a letter awaiting me from Mr. Tucker. He says there is money to be made there in the cattle business, but he writes such terribly bad hand that I have not made it all out, but will keep working at it until I understand it all. He also says there is money to be made by going into the fruit raising business, but advises me to wait until spring before I come there. Judge F. gave me a letter of introduction that may be of service where ever I go

About that calf I dont remember any except the one that they had for their picnic late in the summer and that we had a piece and John never paid for the rest though he was always claiming that he would do so. It was charged to him regularly on the book, I think John is mistaken. That is all I know of a calf that he had...He was \$8.50 behind on the year when his children were sick, and his boys did some work when we planted corn and that went towards it, and it took about all that was due John when I left to settle that. I dont remember any calf that we had of him. How is the weather there? It is very cold here. The mercury was 8 below zero yesterday morning and this morning it was at zero, and is quite cold now. Aunt Lizzie has gotten about over her cold and will do well if she stays by the fire. She cant stand much cold. All as usual.

From Your Son Henry.

[Attached envelope postmarked "Washington Hollow NY Jan 8"]

10. Washington Hollow Jan 19 1884

"Mother"

You may tell Aunt Maria that I have not been to Uncle Alonzo's yet but have a good reason for not having been, but am going as soon as I can. Lewis Tomlinson died very suddenly in Pokeepsie a day or two ago. He will be buried today at the Hollow. I am going to the funeral. It is snowing again quite hard. Have you received the blankets all right? And did they suit? I was at Edwin Thorne's place a few days ago and it rather disappointed me. The buildings are nothing to compare with Dr. Quinmby's and are no better than our own. They are a great many little buildings that look as if they had been bought at auction somewhere else and were moved up. They are in good repair though and all painted but they are so small. I was at D.B. Haight's a day or two ago. They were all well and enquired after you all in Va. He is out of the horse business now entirely but has a fine herd of short-horn cattle, and some very fine sheep, but his outbuildings dont compare with our own, that is they are not near as large and convenient- not near as well built- nor in as good repair and his farm for hills I never saw the like. I did not go to Clements but heard that they were as well as usual. I wrote to George more than a week ago and have heard nothing from him. Wonder if the letter reached him. I answered Mr. Ticker's letter a few days since. I have no idea of going west until Spring if at all. But if I dont get that Conductorship I guess I will go then as far as Chicago anyhow. I have not written to stir that Superintendent up yet but guess I will do so Monday. Uncle G. drove Betty day before yesterday. She is not two years old yet. She went off without any trouble at all. He had a regular horse trainer come and drive her though. If she had been mine I wouldn't have paid any trainer to have driven her but would have done it myself. Thorne has nearly one hundred horses and colts on his farm worth from \$20,000 down. Some of them are very handsome but none of his colts of the same age were as good as Uncle G's two. They are fine ones, and he is proud of them now I tell you. It is fun to hear him talk horse, something that he never used to do. But he really knows about them too. I wish I could remember all the horse knowledge that he has told me. Then too he is getting to be quite a horse

doctor, he has a good deal of practice I am told. He has more horse books and pedigrees of horses and one stuff and another around here than you can shake a stick at. Quite a change for him who used to care so little for a horse. Well I have told all the news I guess so I will close. All as well as usual.

From your affectionate Son Henry C. Haight

11. Washington Hollow Jan 23rd, [18]84

“Mother”

I haven't time to write a long letter as I am about ready to go to Verlank but will use what time I have for that purpose. There is splendid sleighing just snow enough to make a sleigh run nice and not enough to be in the way. I am glad to hear that Lize and her colt are getting along so nicely Hope they will continue so. Got your papers last night:- There was a burglary at the Hollow last night in Whales Hotel Frost the horse man that has made it his home there was robbed of about \$350 worth of jewelry. They suspicion some linemen working for the telegraph co. who were stopping in the Hotel. Has anything been done about that corn? Let me know about it when you write again.

Havent seen anyone from Pokeepsie in two weeks but guess they are all well.

I'll bet that Jake won't sell the mill and if he does whoever buys it will have to pay more for it then they have been asking I suppose it is doing a good business though. I went with Uncle G. over to...in the town of Amenia yesterday It is about twenty miles. Through some very rough country indeed. He went on some business about the Fair.

I'm glad to hear that you have succeeded in filling the ice house, as ice in the summer is almost indispensable there. The ice here never was finer they say. I dont know what about the insurance, but I think the Loudon company is stronger than the Fairfax one if their rates are somewhat higher. It is a stronger and more wealthy co and I had rather hold on a while longer. Well I have used all the time that I have. Now you musent blame me for this writing for even this a long way better than Mr. Tuckers as I had to get Uncle G. to help me read it. And I am in a great hurry now so good bye.

From your Son
Henry.

12. Washington Hollow Jan 29. [18]84

“Mother”

Your letter dated Jan 23rd just received, what has detained it I don't know. So Jake is in Va is he? Well! it is hard to tell what he will do next though I am sorry he is in va. Steve has sold Barney has he. He didn't get very much for him seems to me. You may tell him he may work Lize enough to pay for her keep if he is a mind to. I wish they would handle the colt some just to gentle it you know, because it was inclined to be very wild when I came away I thought. Where is Mark Terrett, and what is he doing? I thought he would miss it by going in the winter. He started

for the Pacific Slope but he can't be there as it never gets as cold as that there, at lest] least all I have ever read or heard of it says that it is not that cold there but very rainy. It is quite warm to what it has been but the snow is falling and has been all last night and to-day, making the sleighing very good which it has been since a week before Christmas and the ground has not been bare since. Frank Haight is going to leave the old place in the spring. I don't know where he is going but I hear it is somewhere out of the county. He has got to drinking himself it is said and between Webb and the [Dr.?] I suppose he cant stand it any longer. It would have been better for all of them and himself too if he had left 10 years ago. What does Jacob expect to do in Va? if anything but to sell the mill? That will prove to be a mistake I think Why dont George answer my letter? I wrote a long time since. What are the Garwoods doing, or did their room renting prove to be successful? I know when I came away D was very much afraid that it would not. I heard from the Agent of the Car Co the other day. He said they had Conductors enough for the present.

Uncle G. drove his colt again yesterday. She went very nicely. She is not yet two years old but is large of her age. Dr. John Leonhardt married yet? What was ever done about that bill that we owed him, or hasn't he made it of yet. I see that the wheat market is down very low yet hope it will rise but I dont know how that will be as the Tribune gives it a downward tendency. It is still snowing steadily but hope it will stop before night as I want to go to Amenias to a grand ball that is to be held there. I have an invitation to it. I have joined the Lagrange Sociable Club and have attended one. Had a very nice time. A large company of nice people and splendid band. Far ahead of any band in the country at Home. All well as usual.

Yours, Henry.

13. Washington Hollow Feb 1st [1884]

"Mother".

Your letter dated 29th just at hand, what detained it I dont know. Now about the mill, It is just the kind of property that I always wanted as you know that I like machinery, but it is a steam power which is more costly to run but it has its advantages too. How does Jacob propose to sell it? is \$3,500 the price for the mill alone or will he sell one without the other? Has Waters put a shed over the boiler yet, or is it just the same as when I left. I suppose the repairs that he put on the boiler are all in first-class order and working well at present. Now what does Steve propose? for he and I to buy it in partnership? I think that would be the easiest way for us to pay for it. But that of course will be as Steve says. How much money does Jacob want at present or does he want it all. I don't doubt but that Beckham would help us with it. About how much would we have to bid up to get it if we took a notion too?

Do the Averill boys want to mill very bad? Of course is nothing to the case only it show how much they think of the venture. I have had so good a time this winter that I have almost gotten out of conceit with Va. and then too I would like to go west and see how it looks, but then of course I want to make all I can and it seems as though the mill was going low and I [want] always liked that kind of business. I have not shown your letter to Uncle G. as I have not time for I am expecting the mail carrier every

minute. Write as soon as you can and answer those questions I have asked and I will answer it deciding what to do.

Your affectionat Son
H.C. Haight

14. Washington Hollow, Feb 9 [18] 84

"Mother"

Yours of 7th at hand. I think as you do now, that is that the mill is well worth the money and I conclude to try it and will let Steve do the bargaining, on account of the old grudge. Tell him to do the best he can for me in way of price. If Jacob does want all the money what difference does it make whether we owe someone else or him. About buying it in partnership, I think, that it would be the best way, but we will settle that hereafter. If it can be bought for \$2800 tell Steve to try and fix it that way because we have already done considerable for them, but tell him not to stand on \$200. Of course I have no use for Aunts house. Write as soon as you get this to let me know if you have received it, and also say whether it will be necessary for me to come home at once or not as I would like to stay a while longer and finish my visit. I would like to stay until the last of this month if possible but let me know as to that when you write. All well as usual. Was up on the Ridge yesterday. Helen & her family are all well. Eddie is at Sea in the merchant service now on the Pacific mail line. He went one voyage as a common seaman, but has some office now I think. That is all at present. Write soon and let me know whether it will be possible to stay until the 22nd of the month even.

Your Son Henry.

15. Washington Hollow Feb 18th 1884.

Mother

I received your letter today saying that Steve had come to a bargain with Jake, and I think the terms as I understand them are about the best we could make. About my coming home at once, I am of your opinion, that is that Steve can manage to get along with Jake better than I can. I am enjoying myself very much and would like to stay to the last sociable of the season, which will be held on the night of the 29th of this month at Ayroults. Of course you know where the place is. I have been to all that has been held but two, and have had a very nice time, but I will come home whenever you think it necessary, and will hold myself in readiness to do so at any time.

I was very sorry to hear that such a bad accident happened to Dick, but I cant see as anyone is very much to blame. He has been hurt very badly twice before and came out and I hope he will out of this. John DeBell's horse broke its leg just as bad as near as I could learn and got well and I don't see why Dick shouldn't. I was in to Uncle Charles on Thursday last, he said Aunt Jane was about the same. She is an old woman to recover from that disease. Everyone that you know are as well as usual. Aunt Lizzie has been very well for her for the past two or three weeks.

The snow has all gone and left very rough and poor wheeling for the present, but when the rough places get worn down they will be good again. As I have told all the news I will close. Good night.

Your Affectionate Son
Henry.

16. Washington Hollow Feb 18 [18]84

“Mother:”

I received your letter dated the 4th and postmarked the 7th on last Saturday, and answered it at once, but unfortunately it could not go out from the Hollow until monday. You will see by it that I agree to take the mill and leave you to do the bargaining. Please answer it it a soon as you get this if you have not done so before as I am somewhat anxious to hear what has come of it as is quite natural. I hear that Aunt Jane is very sick with pneumonia. It is feared she cannot recover. The weather is mild and rainy, quite like Virginia weather. Has been cloudy for over a week. All well as usual. Write at once.

Your Son
H.C. Haight

17. [Duchess] Washington Hollow Feb 29 [18]84

Mother

I received your card last evening. You did not say what was the trouble and I can't imagine. I sent you a box of hickory-nuts yesterday by express. Hope you will get them all right. I sent them to myself but they are intended for you and you can take them out of the express office.

Write and let me know the particulars as soon as you get this if you have not written before. All well. The weather is quite cold this morning with the deepest snow on the ground, and fine sleighing

Your Son Henry

Series Two

1. Rental Agreement, 26 February 1881- ALS (2.10)
2. Rental agreement, 15 March 1881- ALS (2.4)
3. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 17 September 1888-ALS (2.8/10)
4. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 18 November 1888- ALS (2.8/10)
5. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 21 December 1888- ALS (2.8/11)
6. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 30 December 1888- ALS
7. Phebe Haight and George Haight to George Haight, 2 January 1889- ALS (2.9/15)
8. Henry Haight to George Haight, 5 January 1889- ALS (1.9/9)
9. Phebe Haight and Henry Haight to George Haight, 8 January 1889- ALS (2.9/5)
10. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 21 January 1889- ALS (2.9/14)
11. Phebe Haight to George Haight, January 1889- ALS (2.9/13)
12. Phebe Haight to George Haight, January 1889- ALS (2.8/17)
13. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 28 February 1889- ALS (2.8/16)

14. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 10 March 1889- ALS (2.9/4)
15. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 28 March 1889- ALS (2.8/2)
16. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 31 March 1889- ALS (2.9/8)
17. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 5 April 1889
18. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 18 April 1889- ALS (2.9/3)
19. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 23 April 1889- ALS (2.8/18)
20. Charles Murray to George Haight, 30 April 1889- ALS (1.9/11)
21. Henry Haight to George Haight, 4 May 1889- ALS (2.1/6)
22. Henry Haight to George Haight, 8 June 1889- ALS (1.9/10)
23. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 14 November 1889- ALS (2.8/12)
24. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 13 January 1890- ALS (2.9/6)
25. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 28 February 1890- ALS (2.8/4)
26. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 12 May 1890- ALS (2.9/7)
27. Phebe Haight to George Haight, 1 June 1890- ALS (2.8/6)

The first two documents are legal agreements drawn between Phebe Haight and her children following the 1880 death of Alexander Haight. It is likely that the rental agreement simply codified a pre-existing arrangement between the contracting parties.

1. [26 February 1881]

We the undersigned selected by the heirs of Alexander Haight¹ decd. to fix upon a fair rental for the farm occupied by a portion of the said heirs, find that the present occupants Stephen² & Henry Haight³ shall pay to Mrs. Haight⁴ \$170.00⁵ Mrs. Lee⁶ \$85.00; and to George Haight⁷ \$85.00⁸- for the year 1881. The said Stephen & Henry to keep up the ordinary repairs to the fencing, and buildings, but not to include a new roof to the dwelling; and that they shall sow grass seed, and work the farm in the same manner generally as heretofore.

We further find that should the said Stephen & Henry rent for a term of five or six years they should pay to Mrs. Haight \$200.00; and to Mrs. Lee and George Haight \$100.00⁹ each- per annum.

Sworn under our hand this 26th day of Feb. 1881

John T. Presgraves
Geo. F. Harrison
James P. Machen¹⁰

We further believe that Mrs. Lee is entitled to 32 bushels of corn on acct. of the crop of 1880- [and that] Geo. Haight- 32 Bbls and Mrs. Haight 64 Bbl.

Geo. F. Harrison
J.T. Presgraves

¹. Alexander Haight was the son of Jacob and Amy Haight who purchased Sully in 1842. In 1851, Haight built his own home, Little Sully, just south of the main house (Gamble 1973:83).

². Stephen Haight, eldest son of Alexander and Phebe Haight.

³. Henry Clement Haight, second son of Alexander and Phebe Haight.

⁴. Phebe Sweet Haight, widow of Alexander Haight.

⁵. "00" superscripted.

6. Margaret Haight Lee, only daughter and eldest child of Alexander and Phebe Haight.
7. George Haight, youngest child of Alexander and Phebe Haight.
8. "00" superscripted.
9. "00" superscripted.
10. Presgraves, Harrison, and Machen were all farmers in Fairfax County. Machen's farm lay just east of Sully (Hopkins 1879).

2. [15 March 1881]

This memorandum entered into the 15th day of March 1881 between Phebe Haight for herself, and as guardian of George Haight, Thomas W. Lee,¹ and Margaret Lee of the first part, and Henry Haight and Stephen Haight of the second part, witnesseth; That the parties of the first part agree that the parties of the second part shall have possession of and cultivate for the Year 1881 (in the same general way as was done by the late Alex. Haight) the farm lately occupied by Alex. Haight, decd. containing 417 acres and known as Sully.² And the said parties of the second part shall pay at the expiration of the Year 1881, to Mrs. Phebe Haight, one hundred and seventy dollars (\$170 00/100); to George Haight Eighty five dollars (\$85 00/100) and to Margaret Lee Eighty five dollars (\$85 00/100)-

Stephen S. Haight
Henry C. Haight
Margaret A. Lee
Thomas W. Lee

[AL in the hand of Henry C. Haight; S by Stephen Haight, Henry Haight, and Margaret Lee.]

1. Thomas Lee was Phebe Haight's son-in-law (Gamble 1973:119).
2. Sully, located in Fairfax County, Virginia near the present town of Chantilly, was originally owned by the Lee family, who sold the plantation to George Swartwout in the 1830s. In the 1850s, the farm was divided between Margaret Haight Barlow and Alexander Haight. Margaret Barlow acquired Sully and 375 1/2 acres of land, while Alexander Haight acquired Little Sully and an equal amount of land (Gamble 1973:83).

In 1888, George Haight left the farm to attend the Blacksburg Agricultural and Mechanical college (modern Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) in Blacksburg, Virginia. Sometime during this period, Stephen Haight appears to have fallen out with the rest of the family, and in 1889 he left Little Sully permanently.

Letters from the period 1888-1890 written by Phebe Haight to George Haight tell the story of a family struggling to survive sociologically and economically.

3. Chantilly Sept 17' [1888]

Dear George

I received your letter Saturday,¹ glad to hear from you and you were² getting along all right,- I have not much to write about, we are all well,

and still raining, if it continues we will soon need boats to ride in, the pork money came on Saturday, when I get the check cashed I will send you some, you must let me know in time to send it to you and the amount you will need, I hope you got your undershirts before you were measured for the uniform,³

Your Affectionate Mother

1. 15 September 1888

2. "were" interlineated

3. George Haight was a cadet at the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College in Blacksburg, Virginia.

4. Chantilly Sunday Night [18 November 1888]¹

Dear George

I received yours Saturday,² we have some hogs that will do to kill, Henry will kill tomorrow, and send you the money, and I will go down to Auntie Wrenns³ and get your gloves knit, as soon as I can, you have said nothing about your underclothing shirts and drawers, I can get some cotton flannel and have them made and sent to you if you want them and some woollen socks if you would like to have them, it is time for cold weather, it has not been cold yet but it is coming, it is best to have clothes enough to be comfortable you are away from home remember and run no risk of getting cold and sick, do you want your mittens white or colored,

Yours Affec
Mother

1. Envelope postmarked 21 November 1888.

2. 17 November 1888.

3. Probably Arnold Wrenn's wife. The Wrenn's were neighbors of the Haight's. From 1863-1865, Lysander Wrenn and family occupied Little Sully as tenants.

5. Chantilly 21st [December 1888]

Dear George

I send you a postal order of \$25.00¹ write me how long that will last and be shure and write in time, all well, Henry is going to town² with a load of apples, there was a dreadful rain last Monday³ the roads washed allmost impassible, our manure spreader cases put off until next month, they thought of impeaching your evidence on the plea of being so late in the day

Your Affec Mother

1. "00" superscripted.

2. Alexandria, Virginia

3. 17 December 1888

6. Chantilly Dec 30" [1888]

Dear George

Christmas is about over and I am not sorry, it is unusually pleasant weather, other ways about same old style, I do not think neibor Ben¹ has done any great amount of business for money is not plentiful enough, but there has been enough drunken Darkies about for my use,-your corn is all housed, your part is 21 bsll,- ours is not all housed Uncle Tom² has moved in the house by the gate,³ and works by the month, and we have had another young man for a month (\$6 per month)⁴ and will keep him until the corn is housed & wood got in Steve has moved into the house that Uncle Tom moved out with all his company, Bill⁵ left him about a month ago Aunt Lizzy⁶ is still here George⁷ will come for her if she goes home this winter,

The neibors are all well except Mr. Kendrick⁸ he has been sick a long time, gradually failing I do not suppose he will ever get out again,

The baby⁹ runs all over and in all sorts of mischief, and talks [conc] some,-

Write soon how you spent Christmas

your Affec Mother

7. Jan 2 1889¹⁰

I received your letter yesterday I will answer all questions I can. The spreader case comes off the 22d of this month,- Henry goes to the city once in two weeks he will¹¹ go day after tomorrow,¹² and send you some money from there, he delivers the butter and gets 35c per lb. & eggs 30. per doz,- mill¹³ is still yet, the insurance Co has not commenced any legal proceedings as we know of,- Margaret has the same old women for a [th] teacher they had last year,- Henry writes you about the timber if I was in your place I should take his advice and not have any young white oak cut,- the hickory is not getting any better and I would have them cut.
your M

George. Thornton¹⁴ has not commenced cutting yet, in fact I haven't seen him for some time but I think I will let him¹⁵ have mine and moter will do the same but if I were you I wouldn't sell him anything but what is at its best as I dont think it will pay to let him cut a young growing tree that will only make but one or two ties¹⁶ as he will only pay 7cts for them, but there is a man about here buying hickory for spokes, he pays \$3.50 per thousand for them and takes nearly all of the tree. Mother & I will sell him I guess. Hadn't you better sell too as hickory isn't good for much but firewood. Let us know about the hickory,

Henry.

1. Benjamin Hutchinson lived on a farm west of Sully (Hopkins 1879).

2. Not identified.

3. One of the outbuildings; no longer extant.

4. "\$6 permonth)" interlineated.
5. Probably a laborer employed by Stephen Haight.
6. Elizabeth Sweet was Phebe Haight's sister-in-law. She often visited Little Sully in the winter to escape the bitter winter weather characteristic of upstate New York.
7. George Sweet was Phebe Haight's brother. He operated a horse farm in Washington Hollow, Dutchess County, New York.
8. William L.H. Kendrick.
9. Helen Hill Haight, daughter of Henry and Emma Haight, was born in 1887.
10. Documents 6 and 7 are two letters that were mailed together. They are treated as one unit, but given separate numbers in this article.
11. "will" interlineated.
12. 4 January 1889
13. Barlow's Mill. The steam driven grist and saw mill had been built by Alexander Haight and operated by James Barlow. In 1884, Henry and Stephen Haight purchased the mill from their uncle.
14. Not identified.
15. "let him" interlineated.
16. railroad ties

8. Washington J[an] 5 [18]89.

George

Mother had a letter ready for you but I forgot to take it- so I will write this and send it from her enclosing an order for \$10. which please acknowledge the receipt of. Your questions were all answered in the other letter which you will get after a while.

Yours &tc Henry

9. Chantilly Jan 8" 1889

Dear George

I received a letter from you¹ and also one from the supperdent² with a due of two months board, if you have not paid it in [let] pay it over and be done with it,³ or if there is any⁴ mistake about having it credited to you see to it⁵ perhaps we better send it directly to the suppertendent, write and let me know and have it investigated for I do not like such dues, for I have enough that is due and more than I can pay,- The mill is not running but Brown and his brother were here yesterday,⁶ and they want it if they can get a house to live,- Henry wrote to Thornton to except his terms and he is looking for him soon, to complete the bargain,-

Henry O'Banon⁷ had his barn burnt he had quite an insurance but everything was burnt,- except his horses & cow, all his corn was house, hay farming tools, harness. everything he had was in the barn except his wagon and ax at the wood pile,- it was an insendary fire,- 7 calves was burnt, Our new neibor has moved in Mr. Hutchinson he has the reputation of being a fine man,

The baby⁸ and Aunt Lizzie has great times, Aunt sings Yankee Doodle and Helen will dance and laugh and have⁹ great times,- write about the money immediately

Your Affec Mother

George I suppose you have received my letter from Washington by this time and you ought to have gotten it by the 6th the day on which your letter was dated, as it was sent early Saturday¹⁰ morning, but then perhaps you dont have any mail over from Christiansburg¹¹ on Sunday. Christmas was very quiet here, The baby received some quite nice presents from people in the north and from the City. Mr. Kendrick has been quite sick all the fall and winter. The Dr. dont think he will ever get quite well again. I still go to the City every two weeks with the butter and I try to take enough of the eggs and other things to pay expense with. There has been a great deal of building going on in Washington all winter as the weather has been so fine. There is a very fine flat building just being finished on Capitol hill on the corner of north B St and New Jersey Ave. right in front of the Capitol.¹²

There is nothing going on here now and as you know there never has been, and dout there ever will be. Berry Harrison went to Washington to go to school but is now working at the carpenters trade for the government, and goes to school nights, He is an apprentice at the Treasury department.

That is about all for this time but will write oftener in the future. All well.

Yours truly
Henry

1. "from you" interlineated.

2. William B. Preston (Kinnear 1972:126).

3. "and be done with it" interlineated.

4. "any" interlineated.

5. "see to it" interlineated.

6. 7 January 1889

7. Henry O'Bannon's farm lay to the west of Sully.

8. Elizabeth Barlow Haight, one of Phebe Haight's grandchildren, was born in January 1889.

9. "have" interlineated.

10. 4 January 1889

11. Christiansburg, Virginia is about 15 miles south of Blacksburg.

12. One of the House Office Buildings, at the intersection of Independence and New Jersey Avenues.

10. [21 January 1889]

Dear George

I have not heard from you in several days, and am anxious to hear how you are getting along with the scarlet fever write a few words if you do not have time for anything more, we are all well, Emma and the little one is doing very well,

The ground is covered with snow and is quite cold tonight, the sleys are out some,

if the fever gets in the school most likely it will break it up, but keep away from it when you can,

tomorrow the spreader case comes off I dread the ride down to the C.H.¹

Aunt Lizzy stays by the fire and in fine health is great deal better than last winter,- it is late and I will go to bed,-

Your Affec Mother
write soon and let me hear from your fever casses

¹ Fairfax County Court House. The original courthouse structure now forms the end of the present courthouse nearest to Route 236 at the intersection of Routes 236 and 123 in Fairfax City.

11. [January 1889]

Dear George

I received the superintendents report today with a [dues?] for \$8.50- due for the month of Dec, Henry sent you \$10.00¹ from Washington and you had not given it in to him, or he had not² given you the credit for it if you had, please see and write to me how it is, immediately, if you do not it will make an extra trip to the City to get it,- all well

Your Affec Mother

The money was sent the 21st last month

Henry has been trying to sell some ties to Thornton he offers 7¢ for hewn, and 5¢ for sawed the sawed timber is not getting any better but for the hewn [is] will be the young growing timber,- will you want yours cut in case he comes to a bargain, when he goes to the City he intends going to the railroad office³ to see if he cannot do better write what your wish is and opinions are I do not know as if I should want the young growing timber cut if I was not obliged to

Your M

¹ "00" superscripted.

² "not" interlineated

³ The Washington, Ohio and Western Railroad (Reed 1978:460).

12. Chantilly Jan [1889]

Dear George

I received your letter yesterday asking a good many questions, some I can answer some I cannot,- Stephen's cleared land, and Henry's wood lot was sold to Yates, it was bid up to \$20. per acre, which makes about \$1600 he will have to pay for it, that leaves Henry's cleared land and Stephen's wood lot unsold, there was not a bid,- and the lower, was not put up. Henry saw Love¹ as he went to the City, he said the returns had not been sent in, and he could not give him the exact returns, the next time he goes provibly he will hear.-

Henry thinks likely there will be enough without the lower to pay up and then some time in the future you may come in.

All well except Henry and myself and we have dreadful colds but neither so as to give up,- Susie² is staying here and going to school and a good teacher I think the best they had for a long time, a Miss Kidwell she is

a stranger, so far has given very good satisfaction, Bettie³ has been up to Middleburgh,⁴ got home last week she will start in a few days,- Tommy goes from home when the weather is good,-

The school house⁵ was not up again they are very anxious for us to keep it but we dont want it, unless our claim is omitted, and I believe if it is tested we can hold it.

I have forgotten the Millers name he is a stranger from London. I have written all I know of at present, it is gotten late the babies are all asleep and time I was

Your Affec Mother

1. Thomas R. Love was a Fairfax County attorney and land speculator.

2. Susan Lee, one of Phebe Haight's grandchildren.

3. Elizabeth Lee, Susan Lee's older sister.

4. Middleburg, Virginia

5. This probably refers to the school house near Barlow's Mill on the Little River Turnpike that Alexander Haight had helped construct following the Civil War (Haight Family Papers).

13. Chantilly Feb 28th 1889

Dear George

I expect you have been looking for a letter and some money, and I am in hopes now I shall be able to send it before many days the old oxen are now in saleable order, and Saturday¹ is drovers day and Henry will see Pat² or some other drover and sell them,-

Today has settled the spreader case, Judge Chichester³ herd the agreement read and decided at once the spreader was mine, he told Judge Thomas⁴ if that agreement was not good there was no use in any written contracts they could do away with the Clerks office entirely, Judge C. gave his charge to the jury and said it was useless to have a witness examined, the contract decided, I have been to the C.H- once a month since you have been gone, and have not been in the Court House at all, it is all Judge Thomas's work he put Steve up to claim it so as to make a fee for himself,- and about all Steve's last years work I expect Judge Thomas has got,-

Now I think I can write that is still more surprising to you, Steve and his niggers as they are called are all gone left the house and place, E Birch⁵ seized the old grey mare & two colts for his debt, which was \$75.- part of it borrowed money, to pay for Vick J Shun a cow & calf and his old buggy for his claim, the rest of his stuff he sold within two days, packed up the balance and moved off in the night, bill horse and gray Henry say in the city Shear⁶ had the selling of them, the gray percheon is on the Chapin place,- Henry Stewart moved his crew up to Lucas's Steve was down to the C.H. today on the old gray mare he had redeemed her and one colt, where he stays no one knows, I suppose up there with them niggers,- There is a report he has moved her up to Fairfax's place if it is so he is going up there to work,- it is the general impression he would have been invited to go if he had not gone⁷ himself,- Now I have written all the news, we are all well but Emma⁸ she has a little touch of rheumatism in her wrist but I do not think it will [be] amount to anything serious, Aunt Lizzy is looking for George to the inauguration⁹ then she will go home with him,- it has been

quite cold but not enough to get ice yet,- I eat a lunch with Hannah¹⁰ they were all well, I asked her to write to you, she inquired after you [she] and would like to hear from you,- Write soon

Your affec Mother

1. 2 March 1889

2. Patrick Sharon

3. Daniel M. Chichester

4. Henry W. Thomas

5. E. W. Birch

6. Conrad Shear was the son of Stephen Shear who purchased Sully from the Barlows in December 1869 (Gamble 1973:117)

7. "gone" interlineated.

8. Emma Young Haight, Phebe Haight's daughter-in-law.

9. Benjamin Harrison's presidential innauguration, 4 March 1889.

10. Hannah Rumsey was a close friend of Phebe Haight. The two women often visited each other.

14. Chantilly March 10' 1889

Dear George

I send you a little money the old oxen did not go until yesterday, there was no market inauguration week, so Pat advanced what I send you, we are all well Aunt Lizzie is here yet Uncle George did not come on he had no one to leave his home with, she will most likely stay until warmer weather,-

Steve is hanging about Lucas's there is no such good luck as getting intirely rid of him,- so the report is none of us has seen him in a long time there is nothing new stiring Margaret was here today, they are all well, Keys is living on the Bishop,-

Write often

Your affec Mother

15. Chantilly March 28 [1889]

Dear George

Yours received yesterday,- Your school year is coming to close before long, and I have been looking forward with the anticipation of seeing you home the last of June, but write as if you have some project in view of staying down in that part of the country,¹ but did not say what you intend to engage in, I would like to know what it is, write and let me know,- Aunt Lizzy is here yet, and I do not believe it would take a grat amount coaxing for her to stay until the middle of June, but I think she would like to start about the first of May it is pleasant in New York but not much before,- I think she begins to be a little homesick but dreads starting alone, your Uncle George has no one to leave his fine horses with to come after her, that he can trust,- Henry & Uncle Tom are hauling manure and it is very pleasant today-

Write soon

Your Affect Mother

¹. Blacksburg, Virginia is in the southwestern corner of the state.

16. Chantilly March 31 [1889]

Dear George

I sent you a card yesterday in reference to your selling your wood lot, Henry's advice to you is not to sell it, Wrenn is very anxious to get it, if he buys Henry's he is obliged to give his price or not have it, H- says all he has talked advised not to sell the wood for it would leave the balance at a disadvantage you are not obliged to sell, if I was in your place I would rather see some of the cows sold than [I] your wood lot, there is two or three that are getting old and no better and when they have calves they better be sold¹ any way I expect they cannot be fatted at any advantage Henry has more wood land than any the rest and if you could exchange with him and get a good tittle it would do for him to part with some, but let it alone not commit yourself until you come home, H- expects to go to the C.H. in a few days and he will talke with Moore about it and see how matters stand if the Loudon Co² should push a sale Wrenn could not buy all, and that is why he is so anxious to get yours, the Co would not sell a small amount as he wants, let me know how much money you will need to settle all up and get home for us to make the most of what we have got to sell

¹. "be sold" interlineated

². Loudon County, Virginia

17. Chantilly April 5" [1889]

Dear George

I received your letter yesterday found us all well as usual, and glad to hear you was well, I have nothing new to write the farmers are getting along with their work as well as the weather will permit it rains nearly every other day,- Henry has¹ sowed some of his oats, the rain stops him, then he hauls off a load of hay, he carry's it to Bailey X roads² and gets 50 c a hundred he thinks that better than carry it to the City for 60 & 65, for he can go and back the same day,-

The babies are well and about as mischevous as they can be, Bess has got so she can climb up most any where she wants to,

Emma had a letter from Hannah Rumsey a few days ago enquiring what had become of us I have not been there³ since you have been away, they were all well she said, I was over to Margarets a few days ago they were well,- I have nothing to write about tonight,- I will try and find something before long, you wrote some time ago you expected the school would close the last of may let us know so we can be prepared for you

Your Affec Mother

¹. "has" interlineated.

². Baileys Crossroads, Virginia; the intersection of Leesburg Pike and Columbia Pike near Falls Church, Virginia.

³. "there" interlineated.

18. Chantilly April 18" [18]89

Dear George

I sent as you directd me to send you by Henry for your sash and he understood to get a military sash and he looked in the stores you directed and one had not been there for 10 years and the only store there supplied only army and navy goods, would not sell, none nearer than NY city¹ the I wrote to Mell Garwood to get some stuff so I could make it, that was² a week ago Tuesday and I have not herd a word from her,- Henry has gone³ again today, and he will get something but I am afraid you will not get it by the 20, but will before the 26"

I send you a little money I shall not register it please send me a card if you get it all straight, the old cows have not had the calves yet, but we will sell some of them soon Aunt Lizzy starts for home next Wednesday,⁴ all well

Affec Mother

Is there any particular way for your sash to be made H- will not go to the City until Friday. time enough to send a card

1. "none nearer than NY City" interlineated.

2. "was" interlineated.

3. "gone" interlineated.

4. 24 April 1889

19. Chantilly April 23d [1889]

Dear George

Henry received a letter from you today with a new [project?] in your head,- he does not advise you or any one to go to the south west at this season of the year, Barret wrote to him not to advise any one to come there, only in the fall so as to become acclimated by the time the warm season comes over,- I do not know what you intend to do, or wish to for your future life,- when you were at home you talked as if you would like very much to go through a regular course of College education, Henry says he thinks he can keep you agoing for a year or two longer as well as the last two years, it is very true money is short and slow coming in, but the cows will bring in more next winter than any time since he has been back on the farm if there is no bad luck to them, if you leave school before you graduate for something beside common business you have spent the last year uselesly, we think, for my own education was good enough for all practical purposes,- but you are old enough to think for yourself and by all means keep away from the south west at the present season of the year, is my advice, for two years you have been in school and to go and be exposed to hot suns and heavy dews, it would very likely make you sick Barret wrote to Henry, they might all say what they wore [word illegible] to but he considered the climate more debilitating than old Va.- You did not write¹ what you thought you could do or what you² had in mind of doing any way you must come home and get ready for whatever you undertake. We are all well,- Uncle Tom is not done plowing for corn,- it is warm and pleasant. I have had considerable garden made Peas are coming

up and onions, I have a few chickens cherry's in bloom, the babies are growing, and out doors most of the time playing, or in the house squalling to go,-

Your Aff Mother

he will get off some hay before many days, and send you some money if it is but little let us hear soon what you think best to do

1. "write" interlineated.

2. "you" interlineated.

20. Georgetown D.C. Apr 30/89

Dear George

I was very much pleased to receive your invitation to the Maury Literary Society¹ and regret very much that I was unable to be present at that no doubt very interesting event. I heard several months ago that you had left home but had no idea that your plans for entering college were about to be realized, and it gratifies me very much to see that such was the case. Since I last [left] saw you I have often thought over the ideas you expressed in that regard, and the interest which you seemed to have in mental improvement and have come to the conclusion that it is the height of folly for me to neglect any longer educational advantages which are here offered to anyone who will accept them. I have been attending the Linthicum Institute during this and am very much pleased [whic] with the course of Study. This Institute was endowed by Mr. Edward Linthicum, and is free. The course of study is one which is calculated to advance those who are unable to attend other schools, from the fact, that they have to attend daily work. The studies which we pursue besides the ordinary English branches are, Phonography, Bookkeeping, Freehand and Mechanical Drawing and Chemistry. It seems as yesterday, when we were at Chantilly and it is hard to realize how time flies. Georgetown remains the same although its connection with Washington relieves it of much of that quietness which would otherwise characterize it. At present the military fever seems to have taken possession of the city and we have now many companies of militia including Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry and Signal companies, the majority of which left for New York, to participate in the exercises of the Washington Centennial. Work is very slow at present. Phil contracting and Scott [Deviece?] is driving a cab, which he generally does in the winter. I sometimes here from Chantilly through Phil. Jeir, whose wife corresponds with Mrs. Udderback.

Answer this at your leisure if you can spare time and let me know something of Chantilly and its people and also if you have time of your college life.

Chas. R Murray
1236 32nd St
To George Haight Esq
Chantilly Va.

1- The Maury Literary Society was a debating club at VPI (Kinnear 1972).

21. Washington May 4" [18]89

George

I enclose an order for seven dollars. It is all we can spare but will send more in two weeks.

All well.

Yours

Henry

22. Washington June 8th '89

George,

I send postal order for six dollars today. Wish you would write and [soy] say just when the school closes and you need the money to come home on. Will send some more in a few days.

Yours etc

Henry

23. Nov 14th 1889

Dear George

We received three letters from you tonight found us all well Emma and the children are still in the City,⁻¹ I have nothing new to write as I know of,-

This week is court week we have not herd whether the judge confirmed the sales of the land or not or whether some body applied for another, the school house terms were to be \$25. paid down and Moore² could not³ say whether our claim [out] of your fathers labour would be allowed or not until the judge came, and Henry thought on more reflection we better hold on a little and see, if we could not bring that in part payment, we did not want it, for it is in bad order, and detached from all of us, if they refuse to accept it he intends to see some other lawyer and see if it cannot be made out of it,- It has rained every day this week, Henry attempted⁴ to go to Barne's store⁵, he got as far as the bridge and turned back the water was running so rapid he was afraid he would be washed down stream, Chapins branch⁶ was up to the wagon body nearly,- I have no papers that any account of the elections⁷ but Henry got the news in the City that a good many states went democratic but not all, Penn republican, New York democratic, some of the western went republican, but the great trouble there was the prohibition party, we are not ready to have prohibition a party measure yet, we must wait until the people are better educated for it,- Va went 35000 for McKinney,⁸ the old gasette⁹ says Mahone's¹⁰ native county went democratic McKinney's republican, Henry says they were both known to well at home,- You could have voted down there under the same law that soldiers does, vote wherever they are,- Henry thinks,- I saw old Dr. Pugh¹¹ they day after election¹² he was very jubilant said he felt twenty years younger than than he did the day before, I asked him why, he said because of the election going so strong democratic, then I asked him when it had gone different and that stumpt him a little, did not know what to say, he was well dressed looked fat and well, and it is

said his children are doing first rate, if I was in his place I would shake the dust from my feet, and say good bye, [bu] I could not afford car fare for elections in old Va.,¹³ I am making some cotton flannel drawers for you, and when I get them done I will send them to you, and if there is any¹⁴ Mrs. Thomas came up last night and will go back tomorrow morning, she has a situation under the government again much pleasanter one than the one she had before only not quite so good pay, - there nothing new to write only some rascal has been stealing our bee hives, we have been accusing Steve but I do not believe he has had anything to do with it for Henry measured the tracks and it was much smaller than Steve could get his foot in, and some Darkes tell us Mort Thompson has had honey a long time I think we will try some plan to catch some body if we can, there is four gone

write soon

Your Affec Mother, all well but Hannah Rumsey she has whooping cough

¹. Washington, D.C.

². R. Walton Moore was a prominent Fairfax County lawyer.

³. "not" interlineated

⁴. "m" in attempted interlineated

⁵. Barne's store was located on the Little River Turnpike near Barlowe's Mill.

⁶. Chapin's Branch is a small creek that ran through Sully farm.

⁷. Virginia state elections were held 5 November 1889.

⁸. P.W. McKinney (Alexandria Gazette, 6 November 1889 90:274).

⁹. The Alexandria Gazette.

¹⁰. General William Mahone, a local republican politician who had gained power during Reconstruction.

¹¹. Dr. John Pugh was a local physician. In 1880, Dr. Pugh still had six children living with him (U.S. Census, 1880).

¹². 6 November 1889

¹³. This may be a reference to the well established Quaker practice of not voting. As Phebe could not have voted legally, she probably was making an excuse for Henry not voting.

¹⁴. At this point, there appears to be one or more pages missing from the document.

24. Chantilly 13 January 1890

Dear George

Christmas is over at last, and Tom and Charlotte have just about over frolicing enough to be in working order again, - Henry butchered his hogs the day after New Years and I have been very busy taking care of it, but I am about done and I am not sorry for I am tired he has put away four, they weighed 820 lbs about 100 lbs¹ more than last year, it has been so warm I hurried it up as fast as possible, - we have all been well all winter so far but the gripe is going around some are quite sick, Tom Manly's wife has been quite sick, and the Darkey school nearly broken up for a little while, - if you get it down there, stay in until you are entirely over it, for there has been a good many deaths, where they have went out too soon and turned to pnumonia, - Mrs. Davis was buried last week she died of old age she was 80 years old,

The old mill is rented, he pays \$10 a month, and \$50. a year for the house to live in. Henry thinks he will have to cut close to make it, he has not got started yet, - Tom Manly is living in the school house, and is working by

the day for us,- George Coats went back on us, Shear² offered him a little more, so he has gone to work for him,- it will be no matter for him if Shear does cheat him out of half his wages,- Henry is getting out manure on your lot as fast as he can if it keeps good weather as it has been farmers will have a good winter for work we have had one night this winter the ground was frozen and but one no ice nor any sign of any, but there is time enough yet for that,- it is getting late I must to bed,- write soon I have been looking for a letter for several days,-

Your Affec Mother

1. "lbs" interlineated

2. Stephen Shear, owner of Sully after 1869 (Gamble 1973:117).

25. Chantilly Feb 28' [1890]

Dear George

I received yours dated 24' yesterday glad to hear you was well, and hope you have not the scarlet fever, we are all well, the gripp has about gone I feel it some in my limb yet stormy weather. The babies are well, and flourishing,- Wrenn wrote you correctly about the prices of the boys¹ land, the wood land only brought \$11.12² and I expect Yates intends to buy it all, Henry's also,- H- thinks it will pay up all his [indebt] debts, and give him a claim on Stephen's lower interest I am in hopes the lower can be saved,- Henry preposed to Wrenn to make a little trade with you he seemed to like it, it will not be long before you are home and then you can see for yourself better than writing. You wrote for money, he will get off some hay next week, has not sold but one load yet, it has been so low in prices he has held it as long as he could for that reason,- Uncle Tom commenced plowing and it has commenced raining as usual, the peach are blooming but I am afraid they will be killed it is so early. I found an old pair of gloves perhaps they will do to ware once so I will put them in,

Yours Affec Mother

1. Stephen and Henry Haight

2. "12" interlineated

26. Chantilly May 12 [1890]

Dear George

I received yours today, and glad to hear you think all danger over,¹ and if it is, it is our wish for you to stay until the end of the term, Henry tells me to say to you to keep all the money you can on hand to come home if you want to, it is coming warm weather and it may break out again, and he is obliged to raise \$35.00² more on our taxes between this and the first of June,- we shall be anxious to hear from you, so send a card every few days,

I expect we can raise the money for taxes without any trouble, but keep what you can, and we will send you enough to settle all up if we can, write soon and be particular as to the amount you owe, all well

Your Affec Mother

- ¹. The Alexandria Gazette of 5 May 1890 (91:107) noted that "the Blacksburg Agricultural and Mechanical College has suspended on account of the prevalence of typhoid."
- ². "00" superscripted.

27. Chantilly Jun 1st [1890]

Dear George

I received your last, Saturday you write as if you did not think of coming home, when school closes,- do not go off any where unless you feel entirely well, and if there is any symtims of the fever be careful, and if you do not feel well come home as quick as you can get here would be my advice, it [2 words illegible] if there was¹ some cause for all the students to leave, or near all, only G you wrote that stays, and do not go so far [but] that you cannot have money enough in you pocket to start any time you want to,- I am fearful we are going to have another sickly season, a great deal of rain,-

Bess has been quite sick for her but I think it is principally her teeth,- and Margaret has not been² as well usual for several weeks,- the rest of us can eat our usual allowance,- Elisa Wrenn died about two weeks ago, her health had been failing for a number of years, Elisa Smith (Col) died very suddenly going home from her work, crossing the old field her son Sam was at work at Albaugh's and following her, and herd her call and when he found her she was past speaking and died there in his arms,- it seemed to us all a sad death for one that had worked as hard as she had,- Henry will send you some money Friday when he goes down, the men are replanting corn the crows have made bad work with it, the wet weather has made bad with some of my chickens, but I have about 100 yet and if I can keep them I will have some fried chicken for you, and I have 24 turkey's and they appear to be doing well but they are all small,

Write often

Mother

- ¹. "was" interlineated
- ². "been" interlineated

Notes

- ¹. I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of: Ruth Kerns, Barbara Haase, Mark Flynn (Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University), Suzanne Levy, Anita Ramos, Brian Conley (Virginia Room, Fairfax City Regional Library), and Bil Munson. Any errors, of course, remain solely the fault of this author.
- ². Patrick Reed, "1870-1925," in Nan Netherton, et. al., *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History* (Fairfax, Va.: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1978), 392.
- ³. Robert S. Gamble, *Sully: The Biography of a House* (Chantilly, Va.: The Sully Foundation, Inc., 1973), 69.
- ⁴. *Ibid.*, 73.
- ⁵. *Ibid.*, 76.
- ⁶. Janice Artemel, "1840-1870," in Nan Netherton, et. al., *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History* (Fairfax, Va.: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1978), 156.

7. Ibid.
8. Alexander Haight, among others, was given a glowing review by Samuel Janney for improving Sully in a very short time. Samuel Janney, *The Yankees in Fairfax County, Virginia* (Baltimore, Md.: Snodgrass and Werhly, 1845).
9. Gamble, 79.
10. Ibid., 83.
11. Such fears may not have not been unfounded. Following the Civil War, Alexander Haight filed a claim to recover damages resulting from the war. Unfortunately, his claim is missing from those found to date.
12. Gamble, 111-113.
13. The announcement for the estate sale, neatly clipped from the *Fairfax Herald*, was found in a file at the Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives, with the month and year hand written on it. Unfortunately, no papers from February 1889 are included in the microfilm edition of the *Herald*, so that exact date of the sale is not known.
14. *Urich v. Haight*, CFF77S, Chancery Court Records, Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives.
15. The 1891 sale was for Phebe Haight's 90 acre dower tract. *Fairfax Herald*, 16 October 1891.
16. *Fairfax Herald*, 13 November 1891.
17. Chancery Court Records, Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives.

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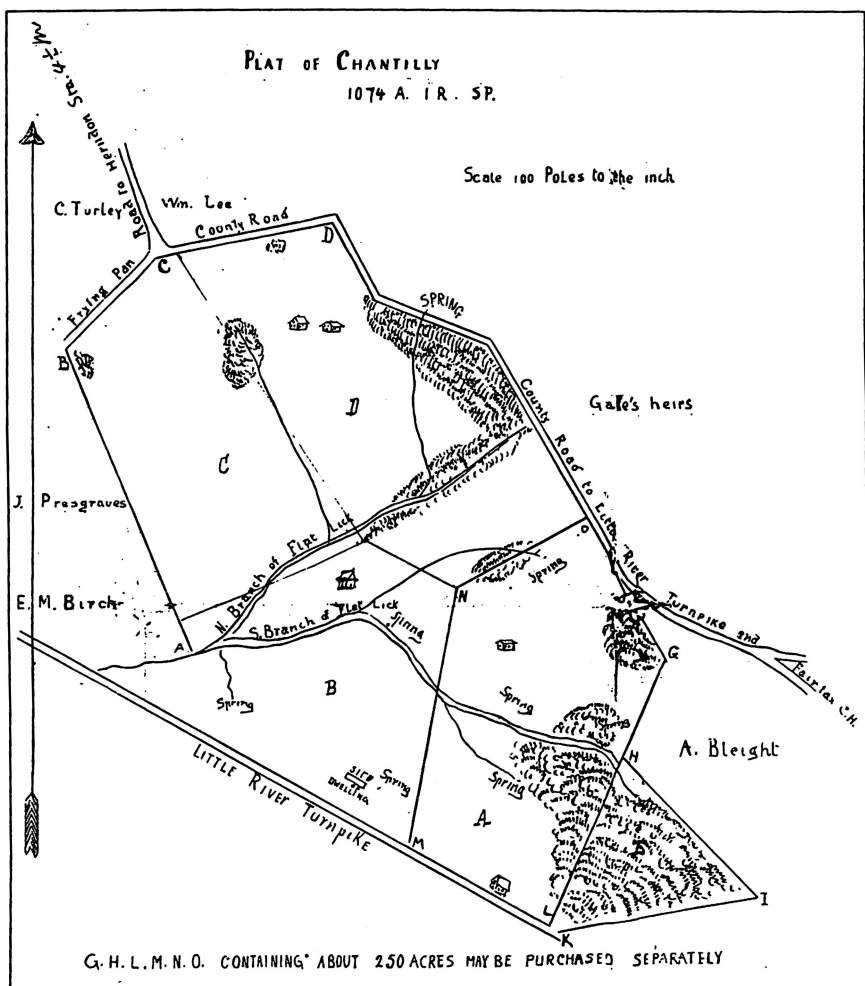
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Plat of Chantilly ca. 1887. From chancery final file #75bb: Powers' admr. etc. vs. Stuart's exrs. etc.

Chantilly, Virginia

historical highlights

by

Eleanor Lee Templeman

How it came about that the name Chantilly made its way from France to a Westmoreland County plantation, thence to a home and community in Fairfax County, is bound up with the history of the Lee family.

Chantilly, the community at the intersection of the Little River Turnpike and the Centreville-Herndon Road, was named for the home of Charles Calvert Stuart and his wife Cornelia. Charles was the son of Dr. David Stuart who married Eleanor Calvert, the widow of Martha Washington's son Jackie Custis. Cornelia was the daughter of Henrietta and George Richard Lee Turberville of Leeton and the grand-daughter of Richard Henry Lee of Stratford, Westmoreland County, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.¹

The land on which the Stuarts built their home was first patented by George Turberville in 1727. It was on this land too that Leeton was built. The patent contained over 4,000 acres in western Fairfax County.² It was joined on the west and south by land patented by Henry Lee in 1725. Richard Bland Lee, a grandson of Henry Lee and a cousin of Cornelia Lee Turberville Stuart, built his Sully estate here in 1794.³

Upon completing his education in England, Richard Henry Lee had taken the "grand tour" of Europe. He was so impressed with the beauty of the Chateau of Chantilly in France that he gave its name to his estate adjacent to the south end of Stratford plantation.⁴ The chateau, twenty-five miles north of Paris, stands on an island in a beautiful lake surrounded by parklands famous for their ancient oaks and beeches. The original chateau was built during the 1300's, followed by numerous additions and reconstruction. Chantilly began acquiring a reputation for its beauty and elegance during the late 1400's when it came into the possession of the House of Montmorency. The adjacent petit chateau was constructed about 1560 for Anne de Montmorency and is an outstanding example of French Renaissance architecture. Chantilly came into the possession of the House of Condé in the 1600's. It was inherited by the Prince de Condé (1621-1686) who lavished care and money on the chateau and park. The early 1700's saw even more lavish additions made by the heir of the Prince, the Duc de Condé, enraging the impoverished populace. His extravagances included

the construction between 1714 and 1734 of the world's finest stables which could accommodate 240 horses. They surpassed in splendor the king's own ecuries at Versailles.⁵ This was the fabulous estate which so entranced Richard Henry Lee that he named his own Virginia home Chantilly.

Richard Henry Lee's grand-daughter Cornelia Lee Turberville inherited from her father land on the north side of the Little River Turnpike in Fairfax County, just west of the present International Country Club golf course. Cornelia and her husband Charles Calvert Stuart, after their marriage in 1814, built on this land their own Chantilly, named for the home of Cornelia's grandfather in Westmoreland County.⁶ The Stuarts raised nine children at Chantilly, four sons and five daughters.⁷ Charles Calvert Stuart served as school commissioner, justice of the peace, and was appointed by the Fairfax Court to settle estates and to serve in other capacities.⁸ He died in September 1846.⁹ Charles' and Cornelia's son Sholto Turberville Stuart served as a justice, coroner, and supervisor of elections.¹⁰

A few weeks after Virginia seceded from the Union, Judith McGuire, an Alexandria friend of the Stuarts, sought refuge at Chantilly. Her journal describes the gracious welcome to the home with carefully tended flowerbeds and clipped boxwood. Yet she felt a sense of foreboding which time proved correct:

Nature and art have combined to make this one of the most beautiful spots I ever saw, yet we look upon it sadly, fearing that the trail of the serpent may pass over it all...The ladies of the family are here alone. The sons are where they should be, in the (Confederate) camp...¹¹

A few days later they were joined by Mrs. Robert E. Lee and her daughters in their flight from Arlington. Shortly after, Chantilly was to be abandoned as Cornelia and her family and guests fled southward.

The Union army occupied Chantilly as a headquarters, then as a field hospital following the Second Battle of Manassas. On September 1, 1862, Chantilly was in the center of a brief but vicious battle which claimed more than 1,000 casualties. It was halted in the late afternoon by a violent thunderstorm. Thus ended the Battle of Chantilly, leaving the Stuart's home a gutted ruin.¹²

After the war, Cornelia was heavily in debt. On November 29, 1865, she mortgaged the 1150 acres of Chantilly for \$5000.00.¹³ By 1879, Cornelia was living in Baltimore, still in debt. She again mortgaged Chantilly, this time for \$1494.00.¹⁴ In her will, she directed her executors to sell the land for debt and to divide any remaining proceeds of the sale among her children and grandchildren.¹⁵ In 1887, a suit was brought in Fairfax County court by Cornelia's creditors against her executors and heirs, which resulted in the sale of the Chantilly lands.¹⁶

The Sully estate, named by Richard Bland Lee for another French chateau, and acquired in 1957 by the federal government, was within the

LEGISLATION RELATING TO SECOND WASHINGTON AIRPORT

HEARING BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EIGHTY-SIXTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION ON

H.R. 2467

A BILL TO AMEND THE ACT OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1950, TO
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO REIM-
BURSE OWNERS AND TENANTS OF LANDS ACQUIRED FOR
CHANTILLY AIRPORT FOR THEIR MOVING EXPENSES

H.R. 4329

A BILL TO PROHIBIT THE IMMEDIATE DEMOLITION OF
CERTAIN DWELLINGS BEING ACQUIRED IN CONNECTION
WITH THE CHANTILLY AIRPORT SITE, VIRGINIA, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

H.J. Res. 41

JOINT RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE AIRPORT BEING
CONSTRUCTED AT CHANTILLY, VA., PURSUANT TO THE
ACT OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1950, AS THE "CHANTILLY INTER-
NATIONAL AIRPORT"

JUNE 30, 1959

Printed for the use of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

43397

WASHINGTON : 1959

boundary of the future Chantilly International Airport as it was called during the two years of construction. All existing structures within the "taking line" were to be destroyed, including lovely, historic Sully. At the request of Eleanor Lee Templeman, Congressman Joel Broyhill introduced a bill (HR 4329) to preserve this important home. The bill was approved, and Sully with 36.6 acres (later increased to 90 acres) was assigned to the Fairfax County Park Authority to be operated as a public museum.¹⁷

At the same congressional hearing when Sully was saved from demolition, a decision was made regarding the official name of the new airport (HJR 41). The hearing took place on June 30, 1959. Mrs. Templeman was present. The fourteen witnesses who testified were unanimously in favor of retaining the name Chantilly International Airport. Many reasons were submitted: two years of established usage, historical importance, the community nearest to the airport. The most important reason was offered by the executive director of Air Traffic Control: the name Chantilly was unique and therefore could never be confused with that of any other airport, extremely important in case of a national emergency. The name Dulles was never mentioned.¹⁸ However, when the bill reached the desk of President Dwight D. Eisenhower for his signature, he substituted the name of his friend John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, who had recently died of cancer. For three decades, great confusion has resulted from the similarity of the names of the airport and the city of Dallas, Texas. Perhaps a more suitable memorial for the late Secretary of State would have been to rename the National Cancer Research Center in his honor.

Mrs. Templeman has given to the Sully Foundation, Ltd. the pen which President Eisenhower sent to her with which he signed the bill which saved an ancestral home.

I regret that it did not also preserve the original name Chantilly for the world's most beautiful airport

writes Mrs. Templeman. In Virginia, the Fairfax County community of Chantilly alone perpetuates the lovely name.

CHANTILLY FOR SALE.

I offer at private sale, my Estate and former Residence, called Chantilly, in Fairfax County, Virginia. Well known as one of the oldest and most desirable Homesteads in the State. This property is justly celebrated for its beauty of location, perfect health, productiveness of soil, and fine pastures, also unsurpassed Brown Stone Quarries, which underlie the entire tract of about **Eleven Hundred and Fifty Acres**. There is a sufficiency of woodland in the tract, which is well watered throughout by running streams and never failing springs. There are four tenement houses and one barn, conveniently located and in good repair. The fencing has all been renewed since 1865. The Mansion was destroyed by the Federal Army, during the late war, but the orchards, fine park of ornamental shade trees and beauty of the building site, remain intact.

The numerous attractive building sites, springs, etc., make this Estate especially suitable for a colony desirous of sub-dividing into small farms.

Chantilly fronts one mile on the Little River Turnpike Road, leading from Alexandria, through Fairfax Court House and Aldie to Winchester, and affords an unsurpassed view of the Bull Run and Blue Ridge Mountains.

It is distant—Twenty miles from Washington and Alexandria,

“ “ Six “ “ Fairfax Court House,

“ “ Eight “ “ Manassas,

“ “ Three “ “ Centreville,

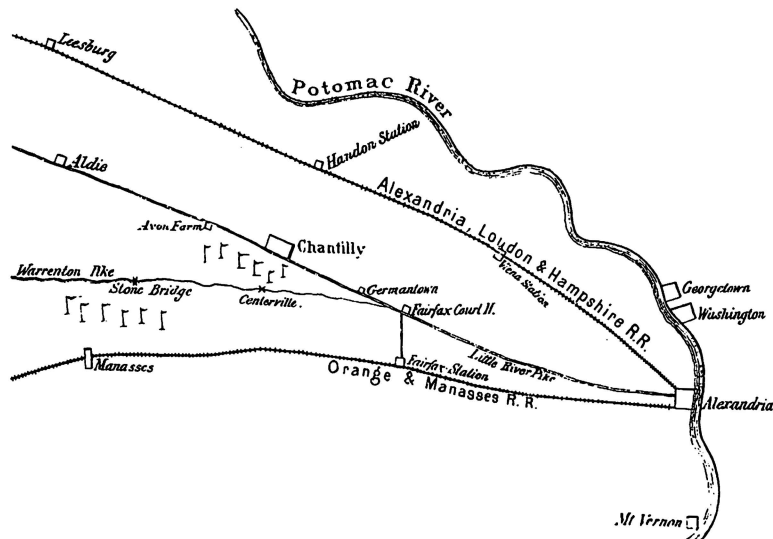
“ “ Five “ “ Herndon Station, on the Alexandria, Loudon, and

Hampshire Rail Road now chartered to connect Washington with the Ohio River. The Independent Line of the Manassas Gap Rail Road passes in sight, with the Loudon and Hampshire Branch located through the tract, and passing over the most favorable sites for opening Brown Stone Quarries.

Persons desiring to purchase and wishing to visit the property will find it easy of access, either by the Loudon and Hampshire Rail Road to Herndon Station or the Orange and Manassas Road to Fairfax Station. The title is beyond question, the property never having been sold is held by me under the original grant from the English Crown to my ancestor. For further particulars, address my Agent, Judge R. H. Cockerell, Chantilly Post Office, Fairfax Co., Va., or myself, care Dr. Wm. M. Post, Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. CORNELIA LEE STUART.

P. S.—Judge Cockerell resides at Avon Farm one and a half miles above Chantilly, on the Little River Turnpike Road, and will show the property to any one wishing to inspect it.



Broadside ca. 1870. From the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Leigh, Jr.

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